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INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE
VOLUME 15 NUMBER 6

AUGUST, 1993

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Also

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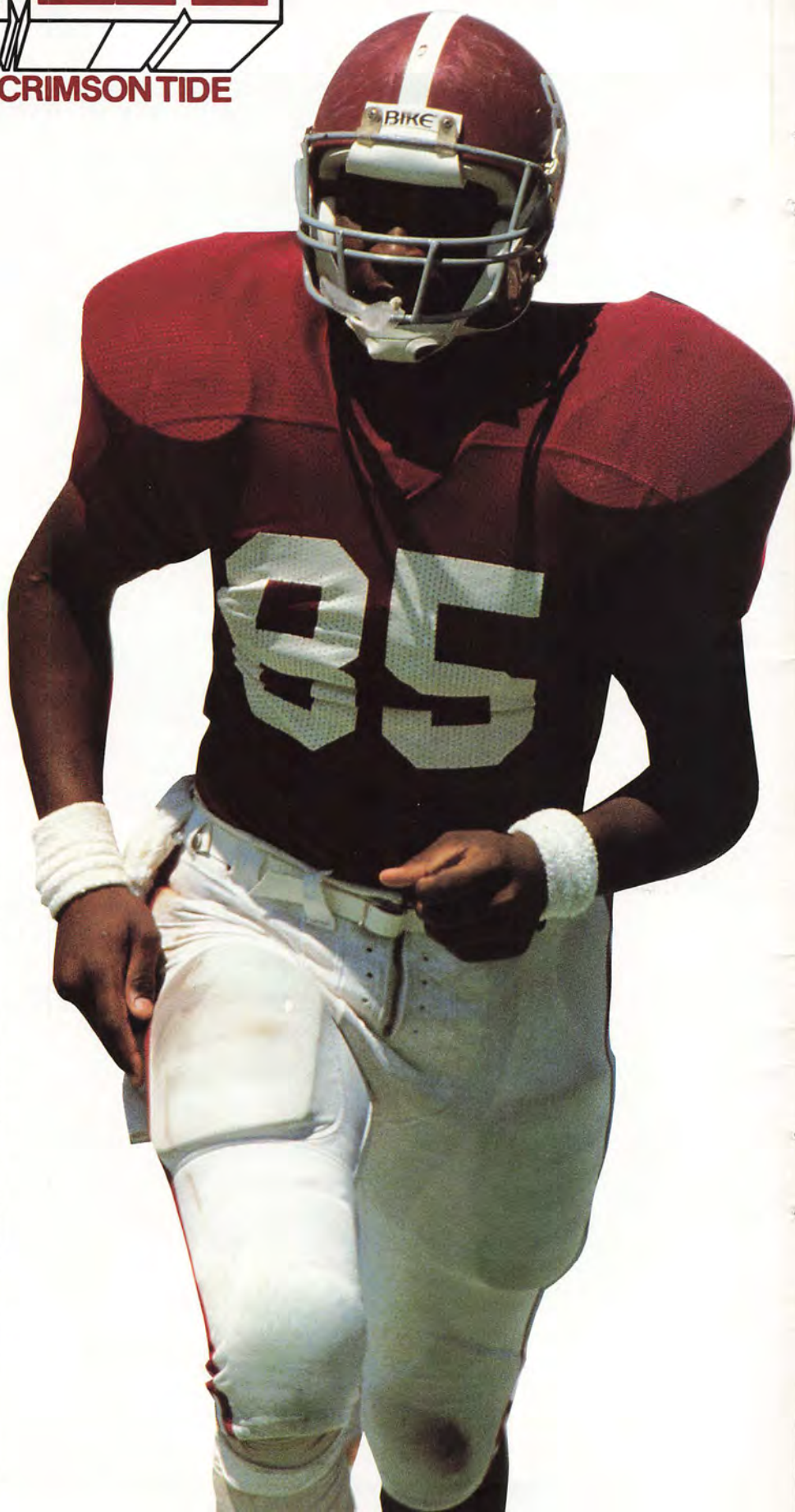
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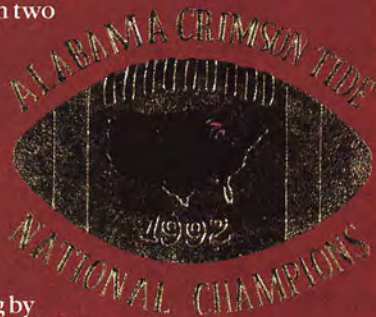
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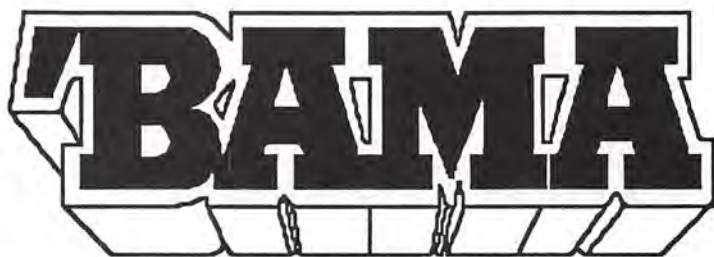
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by 7 p.m. CDT Sunday August 1, weekly beginning September 5
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INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

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Barry Fikes Photo



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by Kirk McNair

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John Clay came to Alabama to play linebacker and win a national championship. He has a national championship ring, but his playing has been as an offensive lineman. He'll start fall practice as the Tide's number one left guard.

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Michael Rogers was one of Alabama's top defenders through the 1992 season, but was unable to play in the biggest game of all, the Sugar Bowl, because of injuries suffered in an automobile accident. The junior linebacker looks forward to another national championship game this year.

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Jeremy Nunley was a backup performer through most of 1992, but consider he was backing up a pair of All-America players, Tide defensive ends Eric Curry and John Copeland. His goal is to be the best player he can be as a starter in 1993.

by John Barnes



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The News Is Mostly Good

by Kirk McNair

Knee injury to Curt Brown is bad break, but Tiders getting in good shape

It is often noted that the best news about a football team in the summer is usually no news at all. Most of the things that happen in the off season that make news are bad. And such is the case this summer.

Curt Brown, Alabama's fine young wide receiver, suffered a serious knee injury in a pickup basketball game at The University's Student Recreational Center in late June. He underwent knee surgery, reconstruction of the anterior cruciate ligament and repair of slight cartilage damage. Although he has begun rehabilitating the knee, a best case scenario is that he would miss about half the season, returning in October. Brown, an upcoming junior, has not been redshirted.

Two other Tiders who have spent time in rehabilitation from knee injuries this summer are linebacker André Royal and safety Chris Donnelly. Bama Trainer Bill McDonald said both are progressing well and should be ready to go when practice begins.

In other bad summer news, at least two Bama football players were charged with misdemeanors. Senior offensive guard William Barger and sophomore defensive end Kelvin Moore were charged in separate summer incidents. Alabama Head Coach Gene Stallings may not announce a penalty, but look for both to be suspended for the Tide's first game this year.

Here are some other summer football notes:

Dates Of Note

Incoming freshman football players (and other newcomers, such as transfers) are scheduled to report for the evening meal on Friday, August 6. That date had originally been announced as a day earlier. Two-a-day workouts in shorts and headgear will begin August 7. Returning players report for the evening meal August 11 and begin workouts with the freshmen Friday, August 13. Two-a-days in full gear begin August 17 and end with the beginning of classes August 25.

Although no date has been announced, it is quite likely that Fan Appreciation Day will be Sunday, August 15. That's the day when all Bama players and coaches gather in the Hank Crisp Indoor Practice Facility and make themselves available to sign au-

tographs, pose for photographs and chat with Crimson Tide fans.

Summer Workouts

Although football players are pretty much on their own in the summer, many Crimson Tiders elected to be in Tuscaloosa this summer, working out under the direction of Bama strength and conditioning coaches. LeBaron Caruthers, who directs Alabama's strength and conditioning program, said this summer has been "the best since I've been here. The players have done a real good job, particularly in the weight room." He said he felt that almost every one of the 85 or so returning varsity players and 10 incoming freshmen who have been working out are "right where they need to be."

SEC Media meetings

By the time most of you read this, the annual Southeastern Conference Summer Media Meetings will be under way or concluded. Each summer the head football coach and two top players from each SEC school gathers with the press in Birmingham to discuss prospects of the coming season. At the conclusion of the three-day event members of the press select a preseason All-SEC team and guess at the final standings in each division and the upcoming SEC football champion.

This year part of that is a no-brainer. Alabama will be the near-unanimous choice to win the West Division and a heavy favorite to repeat as SEC champion. Florida and Tennessee seem to have most support to win the East.

Defensive back Antonio Langham and center Tobie Sheils will probably be unanimous selections for the All-SEC team. Nose tackle James Gregory, linebacker Lemanski Hall, strong safety Sam Shade, wide receiver David Palmer, offensive guard Jon Stevenson and offensive tackle Roosevelt Patterson are other Bama players who could be selected preseason all-stars.

Tide Will Be Seen

Although no Alabama football games have been officially announced for television this fall, there's no question the Crimson Tide will once again be frequently shown.

Jefferson Pilot will once again air SEC games on a regional basis, the 11:40 a.m. central time kickoff games. Early indications are that Bama's first two conference games, at Vanderbilt September 11 and Arkansas in Tuscaloosa September 18, will be J-P productions. The Tennessee game from Birmingham October 16 is almost a certainty for ABC. Other games with a good possibility of being telecast are at South Carolina October 2, at Ole Miss October 23, Mississippi State November

13 and at Auburn November 20.

The South Carolina game is tentatively scheduled for a 7 p.m. EDT kickoff, but that game has a very good chance to be an early game on Jefferson Pilot.

Alabama's season-opening game will be at 4 p.m. September 4 as the Tide hosts Tulane in Birmingham's Legion Field. Other game times that appear to be set are Louisiana Tech at 1:30 p.m. September 25 in Birmingham and the homecoming game against Southern Miss in Tuscaloosa at 2:30 p.m. October 30. Those games are not expected to be commercially telecast, but most or all Alabama games not telecast will be available in Alabama on a pay-per-view cable.

Brian Steeger Signs

Alabama added a very late football signee, Brian Steeger of Buckhorn High School. Steeger is the Tide's 18th signee, not including the re-signings of Kendrick Burton and Toderick Malone, who were ineligible last year.

Steeger, 6-3, 210, was an all-state tailback who rushed for 1,640 yards and 25 touchdowns in 1992 for Coach Buster Middleton. He was *The Huntsville Times* Class 3A-4A Most Valuable Player and a member of *The Birmingham News* 4A all-state team.

Steeger would have been highly-recruited and quickly signed except there were concerns about his academic eligibility. However, he and all other Bama signees are academically eligible.

Off The Hook

André Royal, a junior linebacker, was charged with third degree assault last spring, but witnesses apparently have convinced at least one judge—Alabama Head Coach Gene Stallings—that Royal was not at fault. Royal turned himself into Tuscaloosa police on the misdemeanor charge. Royal was charged after another Alabama student signed a warrant alleging Royal assaulted him at a party in the early morning hours of the day following Bama's A-Day game. It is not Royal's first brush with controversy. He was suspended from the team during spring training last year for undisclosed disciplinary reasons and while away from the team was charged with forgery in connection with a credit card order. That charge was resolved and Royal was reinstated to the team. He played in four games last year, then suffered a knee injury that required surgery. He participated in spring training on a very limited basis. Royal has been one of the top performers in summer workouts.

Landry Medal To Stallings

Alabama Head Coach Gene Stallings did not have comment on the latest charge

against Royal, at least in part because Stallings was not available. He was in California to receive yet another award. The consensus national coach of the year was presented the Landry Medal in Thousand Oaks, California. The Landry Medal is named for Tom Landry, former head coach of the Dallas Cowboys, for whom Stallings was a longtime assistant. The award honors someone who is an inspiration to America's youth and who distinguish themselves through the integrity of their personal lives and careers. Stallings joins a list of most distinguished Americans in receiving the award. They include entertainer Bob Hope, "Peanuts" cartoonist Charles Schultz, former President Gerald Ford, former Dallas Cowboys quarterback Roger Staubach, the late entertainer Danny Thomas, and Detroit Tigers manager George "Sparky" Anderson.

Make That Dr. Stallings

It's now Dr. Gene Stallings. Alabama's head coach received an honorary doctorate after addressing the graduates of Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas. Harding is affiliated with the Church of Christ, of which Stallings is an active member.

Spring Awards

And speaking of awards, the Alabama coaching staff released the winners of the annual spring training awards, and they were somewhat different than the predictions we had made in the May 'BAMA, before the official winners were named. They are:

Lee Roy Jordan Headhunter Award to defensive back Sam Shade.

Jerry Duncan I Like to Practice Award to running back Chris Anderson.

Coach Bear Bryant Best Walkon Award to defensive back Mickey Conn.

Sylvester Croom Commitment to Excellence Award to defensive back Antonio Langham.

Ozzie Newsome Most Improved Freshman Award to fullback Eric Turner.

Billy Neighbors Most Improved Defensive Lineman Award to Elverett Brown.

Woodrow Lowe Most Improved Linebacker Award to Will Brown.

Bobby Johns Most Improved Defensive Back Award to Tommy Johnson.

Paul Crane Most Improved Offensive Lineman Award to Joey Harville.

Ray Perkins Most Improved Receiver Award to flanker Rick Brown.

Johnny Musso Most Improved Offensive Back Award to running back Sherman Williams.

And Lifter of the Year, the man who does the best job in the weight room, offensive lineman Jon Stevenson.

Playboy

Looking for a reason to buy a copy of **Playboy** magazine? The preseason college football issue includes the magazine's All-America Team, and Bama defensive back Antonio Langham was selected to the squad. Langham, a senior from Town

Creek, has 12 career interceptions. The Alabama record is 16. His last two interceptions of 1992 were both returned for touchdowns, against Auburn to start the Tide to a 17-0 win and against Florida in the SEC Championship Game to provide the winning points in Alabama's 28-21 decision.

We're Number 2 Or 3

Alabama's football team, the defending national champion, is not being picked to repeat in the early forecasts. In the NCAA Football Preview and in the *Sporting News* Alabama is picked second in the nation, behind Florida State. The Football Writers of America poll had Alabama third, behind FSU and Miami, while *College Sports* magazine had it FSU, Michigan, Alabama. Bama has the nation's longest winning streak at 23 games.

Bama was picked second in the nation by *Football News* and *Southeastern Conference Preview*, third by *College & Pro Football Weekly*, and *Inside Sports* picked Bama fifth in the nation.

Lindy's was one publication that went with the national champions to repeat. FSU was the runnerup choice.

New Back

Alabama is getting a football transfer from Auburn. Rhondi Gibson, an outstanding player at T.R. Miller in Brewton,

was a little-used defensive back at Auburn. He secured his release and has been accepted at Alabama. He will have to sit out this season then will have two years of eligibility beginning in 1994.

But Not From Notre Dame

A summer rumor had Notre Dame football player Adam Kane transferring to Alabama, but that rumor apparently is false. Kane, a center from Osceola, Indiana, was one of the nation's top prospects following the 1991 season and signed with Notre Dame. After being red-shirted as a freshman, this spring he secured his release from Notre Dame to transfer, and Alabama was one of the schools where it was rumored he was interested. The rumor was fueled by something of an urgency in the Crimson Tide football camp: finding a top-flight center for the 1994 season, after All-SEC performer Tobie Sheils and his top backup, Dennis Deason, have graduated. (And doesn't it say something about the state of Bama's football program that the primary concern is finding a center for 1994?) However, sources at Notre Dame say Kane is not likely to land at a big time football school, and Crimson Tide sources say Kane will not be coming to Alabama, but Bama may be seeing him. Tennessee is trying to land Kane.

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Time To Look At '94 Prospects

by Kirk McNair

Alabama football attracts interest of large number of top high school players

There is a school of thought that spring football practice has been supplanted as the second biggest sport in Alabama. Many believe that football recruiting is now second only to football in interest to Alabamians. And while some believe that's a sad state of affairs, particularly since recruiting is something of an inexact science, it's harmless and it's interesting. And, by golly, it's August, and high time we had some names to digest! After all, signing date is February 2.

There's little doubt that the most talked about high school senior football player in

Alabama is Fred Beasley, the outstanding running back at Robert E. Lee in Montgomery. Beasley is truly a national prospect, known by recruiters and recruiting services from coast to coast. He has been a star for two years for Coach Spence McCracken, leading Lee to the 1992 6A championship. The 6-2, 198-pound speedster has rushed for over 1,500 yards each of the past two seasons, scored 18 touchdowns as a sophomore and 26 last season, and has already earned All-America honors. Last summer he was AAU national decathlon champion. And he is an above average student who has taken classes this summer to prepare him to pass the national standardized tests.

Ironically, Alabama may have gotten a boost from an unexpected source in what is expected to be a major recruiting battle for Beasley. Beasley told *The Birmingham News* he had been contacted by Bo Jackson, the former Auburn star. NCAA rules prohibit alumni from contacting prospective athletes (even for humani-

tarian reasons), which may take Auburn out of the hunt for Beasley before it even begins.

Our sources say a player equal to Beasley as a prospect is Steven Harris, 6-0, 220, from Hazlewood of Town Creek. Harris is Hazlewood's quarterback, but is such a fine athlete he could play any skill position. He is also already academically eligible, which adds to his value. He was ranked 21st (and a defensive back) on *The Birmingham News* list. (We said recruiting is an inexact science.)

No one could blame a college recruiter for taking the senior football class from Hazlewood sight unseen. The list of outstanding performers who have come from Town Creek is a long one, including current Tiders Antonio Langham and Tarrant Lynch. And Harris is not the only potential prospect from Hazlewood.

Montoya Madden is a 5-9, 200-pound running back and Chris Hood a 6-3, 240-pound linebacker at Hazlewood. Both are on most lists of top prospects in Alabama.

One very knowledgeable source thinks that Alabama may have as many as 35 legitimate college football prospects this year. All sorts of events—injuries, academics, and performances, among them—will alter the list of prospects as the high school season and the recruiting season progress, but here are some Alabama preps who will have the attention of college scouts in the upcoming months.

The most important position on the football field is quarterback. Although Alabama signed the top two quarterbacks in the state last year (Freddie Kitchens from Attalla and Lance Tucker from Fayette), top quarterbacks are always in demand, either as quarterbacks or (because they are frequently the team's best athlete) for other positions. (There are other players on this list who may end up at other positions, wide receivers as defensive backs, offensive linemen as defensive linemen, etc.)

Leading quarterback candidates in addition to Hazlewood's Harris are, in alphabetical order: Darrell Payne, 6-0, 180, Pinson Valley; Brent Pettus (son of former Bama baseball player Pete and grandson of former Tide football and baseball star Gordon), 6-3, 180, Tuscaloosa County; John David Phillips, 6-4, 185, Anniston; Adam Russell, 6-2, 175, Dora; and Jake Vest, 6-2, 190, Daleville.

Running backs in addition to Beasley and Madden who will get attention are: KuShawn Anderson, 6-2, 230, Mobile LeFlore; Thomas Banks, 5-10, 175, West Jefferson; Tony Buckhalter, 5-11, 200, Daleville; Tony Donaldson, 5-10, 175, Dothan; Jeremy Jones, 6-1, 188, Ashville;

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Carl King, 6-1, 230, Geneva; Freddie May, 5-11, 206, Tuscaloosa Central; Rodney Melton, 6-1, 185, Phenix City Glenwood; Dennis Riddle, 5-11, 204, Tuscaloosa Central; and Kenneth Scissum, 6-1, 195, Etowah Attalla.

Wide receivers, Kenya Jones, 6-1, 160, Dora; and Shedrick Dixon, 5-11, 182, Phenix City Central.

Tight ends, Charles Johnson, 6-4, 245, Tuscaloosa Central; Jason McCutcheon, 6-6, 175, Mobile Murphy; Jimmy Moore, 6-4, 225, Fairfield; and Rod Rutledge, 6-6, 220, Birmingham Erwin.

Offensive linemen, Jamie Beard, 6-4, 270, Appalachian; Brian Creel, 6-3, 260, Boaz; Matt Harrison, 6-5, 260, Daleville; DeCarlos Majors, 6-4, 330, Birmingham Ensley; Gary McVicar, 6-3, 255, Southside; Patterson Owens, 6-4, 250, Mobile LeFlore; Sage Spree, 6-5, 272, Warrior Academy of Eutaw; Joseph Washington, 6-3, 285, Huntsville Johnson; and Geoff Wilson, 6-7, 265, Robertsedale.

On the defensive side, beginning with defensive backs, the top prospects in Alabama include Curtis Brooks, 6-3, 210, Leroy; Nakia Eason, 6-0, 165, Bessemer Jess Lanier; Tony Gibbs, 6-2, 185, Frisco City; Charles Goodson, 6-0, 180, Anniston; Antonio Gordon, 5-8, 165, Huntsville Johnson; DeAnthony Hall, 5-11, 191, Tuscaloosa Central; Ed Harris, 5-10, 160, Moody; JeDarius Isaac, 6-1, 175, Bessemer Jess Lanier; Norman Nero, 6-3, 190, Escambia County; Jerel Posey, 6-0, 188, Pell City; and Gerrard Pruitt, 6-1, 190, Prichard Blount.

Linebackers, Richard Calhoun, 6-3, 215, Henderson of Troy; Mark Davenport, 6-4, 215, Alabaster; Chris Edwards, 6-2, 215, Bessemer Jess Lanier; Cliff Jackson, 6-2, 218, Lanett; William Mays, 6-3, 228, Birmingham Wenonah; Michael Moss, 6-0, 220, Bibb County; Juandra Pierce, 6-1, 208, Gadsden Litchfield; Tito Smith, 6-3, 200, Birmingham Shades Valley; Trevis Smith, 6-1, 215, Montgomery Lee; Patrick Stiles, 6-2, 220, Fayette; Shawn Stuckey, 6-0, 212, Daleville; and Granison Wagstaff, 6-3, 225, Enterprise.

And defensive linemen, Rayford Bass, 6-3, 240, Theodore; Eric Kerley, 6-1, 295, Birmingham Berry; Marcus Hunter, 6-3, 245, Daphne; Bart Peel, 6-3, 245, Slocumb; Tim Ratliff, 6-3, 265, Demopolis; Leonard Shaughnessy, 6-3, 265, Dothan; Brian Thomas, 6-3, 260, Henderson of Troy; Angelo Wheeler, 6-4, 218, Prichard Blount; and Dan Witherspoon, 6-3, 255, Mobile McGill-Toolen.

Just because it appears there are plenty of top prospects in Alabama doesn't mean that Crimson Tide recruiters will disregard prospects in other areas. As we have frequently noted, The University of

Alabama is one of the few truly national schools, those able to attract the attention of top football prospects anywhere. However, Alabama has historically built its teams using talent from within the state first and top players from nearby states second.

Here is a look at some top prospects around the South who have indicated an interest in Alabama.

In Arkansas, Tony Fisher, 6-3, 230, tight end, Fort Smith Northside; Madre Hill, 6-1, 175, running back, Malvern.

In Florida, Derick Balkcom, 6-7, 295, offensive lineman, Chipley; Jeff Butler, 6-2, 215, fullback, Altamonte Springs Lake Brantley; Amp Campbell, 6-1, 180, defensive back, Sarasota Riverview; Charles Dorsey, 6-3, 255, defensive lineman, Fort Lauderdale Dillard; Hank Grant, 6-2, 220, linebacker, St. Petersburg Boca Ciega; Ronnie Johnson, 6-5, 298, offensive lineman, Jacksonville Ribault; Carlo Joseph, 6-2, 220, linebacker, Deerfield Beach; Noah Parker, 6-5, 270, offensive lineman, Milton; Jason Thomas, 6-5, 270, defensive lineman, Jacksonville Terry Parker; and Rod Walker, 6-4, 280, defensive lineman, Milton.

In Georgia, Williams Barnes, 5-11, 200, running back, Camilla Mitchell-Baker; Correy Bennett, 6-3, 215, linebacker,

Atlanta Cross Keys; Christian Blunski, 6-1, 215-pound running back at Powder Springs McEachern; Brooks Brodie, 6-3, 245, offensive lineman, Tifton Tift County; Larry Brown, 6-5, 235, tight end, Atlanta Crim; Antonio Cochran, 6-5, 235, linebacker, Montezuma Macon County; Juakin Fezell, 6-4, 240, defensive lineman, Fort Valley Peach County; Cole Green, 6-3, 270-pound offensive lineman at Lawrenceville Central Gwinnett; Mitch Green, 6-1, 170, defensive back, Waynesboro Burke County; Phil Henderson, 6-5, 235, tight end, College Park North Clayton; Eric Ingram, 5-9, 165-pound wide receiver at Sparta Hancock Central; Kary Jackson, 5-11, 170-pound running back at Columbus Kendrick; George Lombard, 6-0, 195, running back, Atlanta Lovett; Sean Mitchell, 6-4, 250, defensive lineman, Jesup Wayne County; Shavollo Robinson, 6-4, 272, offensive lineman, Sylvania Screven County; Paul Snellings, 6-5, 240, defensive lineman, LaGrange Troup County; Demetro Stephens, 6-0, 220, linebacker, Sandersville Washington County; and Travis Stroud, 6-4, 270, offensive lineman, Dunwoody.

In Kentucky, Colin Rogers, 6-3, 200, defensive back, Danville.

In Louisiana, Aaron Adams, 6-3, 198,

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defensive back, Metairie East Jefferson; Eddie Bibbins, 6-4, 185, defensive back, River Ridge J.T. Curtis; Robert Hammond, 6-3, 185, defensive back, Opelousas; Chris Howard, 6-1, 210, running back, River Ridge J.T. Curtis; and Anthony Lucas, 6-4, 190, wide receiver, McCall.

In Mississippi, Charles Anderson, 6-2, 230, linebacker, Hattiesburg; Kenny Christian, 6-4, 230, linebacker, Brandon; Jamie Day, 6-0, 190, running back, Philadelphia Neshoba Central; Walker Jones, 6-4, 190, defensive back, Jackson Academy; Richard Lucas, 6-0, 195, quarterback, Hattiesburg; Paul Morgan, 5-11, 220, fullback, Batesville South Panola; Marlon Pope, 6-6, 300, defensive lineman, Hattiesburg; Robert Reed, 6-1, 180, quarterback, Brandon Northwest Rankin; Dwayne Rudd, 6-3, 235, linebacker, Batesville South Panola; and Harold Shaw, 6-2, 215, running back, Magee.

In South Carolina, Andre Aikens, 6-1, 200, running back, Central Daniel; Jeff Coleman, 6-4, 230, linebacker, Gaffney; Kenya Crooks, 6-2, 180, wide receiver, Seneca; Zola Davis, 6-2, 180, defensive back, Charleston Burks; Vonnie Holliday, 6-4, 235, Camden; Holland Postell, 6-6, 260, Summerville; Lee Smith, 6-2, 167, wide receiver, Spartanburg; and Tremayne Stephens, 6-2, 180, running back, Greer Riverside.

In Tennessee, Zachary Bright, 6-5, 250, offensive lineman, Memphis Kingsbury; Lee Ellis, 6-5, 285, offensive lineman, Fayetteville Lincoln County; Cletidus Hunt, 6-5, 264, lineman, Memphis Whitehaven; Travis Jordan, 6-5, 270, defensive lineman, Nashville Overton; Zane Lewis, 6-3, 275, Memphis Raleigh Egypt; Emmett Mitchell, 6-2, 190, defensive back, Memphis Whitehaven; Shane Pierson, 6-5, 220, linebacker, Kingsport Dobyns-Bennett; and Josh Swords, 6-3, 275, offensive lineman, Brentwood Academy.

In Texas, Chris Akins, 6-2, 310, defensive lineman, Paris; Chris Anderson, 6-3, 210, wide receiver, LaPorte; Gary Bartel, 6-2, 175, defensive back, Kountze; Octavious Bishop, 6-6, 325, offensive lineman, Houston Westfield; Anthony Bookman, 5-9, 170, wingback, South Grand Prairie; Charles Bowman, 6-1, 170, wide receiver, Houston Klein; Derrick Cherry, 6-1, 200, Fort Worth Dunbar; Clarence Cruse, 6-3, 200, quarterback, Houston Eisenhower; James Driver, 6-3, 215, linebacker, Cleveland; Derrick Fletcher, 6-6, 265, lineman, Aldine; Kenneth Knotts, 6-3, 220, Houston Yates; Jeff Kramer, 6-2, 225, linebacker, Weatherford; Mark Levine, 6-0, 175, running back, Dallas Skyline; Guy Lewis, 5-11, 180, running back, Dimmitt; Tim McCray, 5-10, 175, defensive back,

Houston Madison; Andre Patterson, 6-4, 250, tight end, Dallas Carter; Delon Washington, 5-11, 180, running back, Dallas Kimball; and John Williams, 5-10, 185, running back, Odessa Permian.

In Virginia, Aaron Brooks, 6-4, 180, quarterback, Newport News Ferguson; Chris Coleman, 6-4, 275, offensive lineman, Chesapeake Indian River; Jeronne Coleman, 6-6, 303, offensive lineman, Portsmouth Norcom; Chad Custer, 6-5, 260, defensive lineman, Salem; Eric Jones, 6-3, 190, wide receiver, Newport News Ferguson; Kenneth Oxendine, 6-1, 212, running back, Chesterfield Thomas Dale; Chris Riberdy, 6-4, 280, offensive lineman, Chesapeake Great Bridge; Billy Smith, 5-11, 175, Forest Jefferson Forest; Shanon Taylor, 6-5, 230, quarterback and linebacker, Roanoke Patrick Henry; and Scott Vick, 6-5, 265, offensive lineman, Hampton.

And from out of the South, Bama is listed by Gary Holmes, 6-6, 240, defensive lineman from Lacey, Washington, Timberline; Brad Johnson, 5-11, 165, wide receiver, Parkersburg, West Virginia; Anthony Lancaster, 5-11, 185, defensive back, Washington, D.C. Roosevelt; Larry Watts, 6-1, 170, defensive back, Hempstead, New York; and Brandon Williams, 6-4, 240, tight end, Buffalo, New York, South Park.

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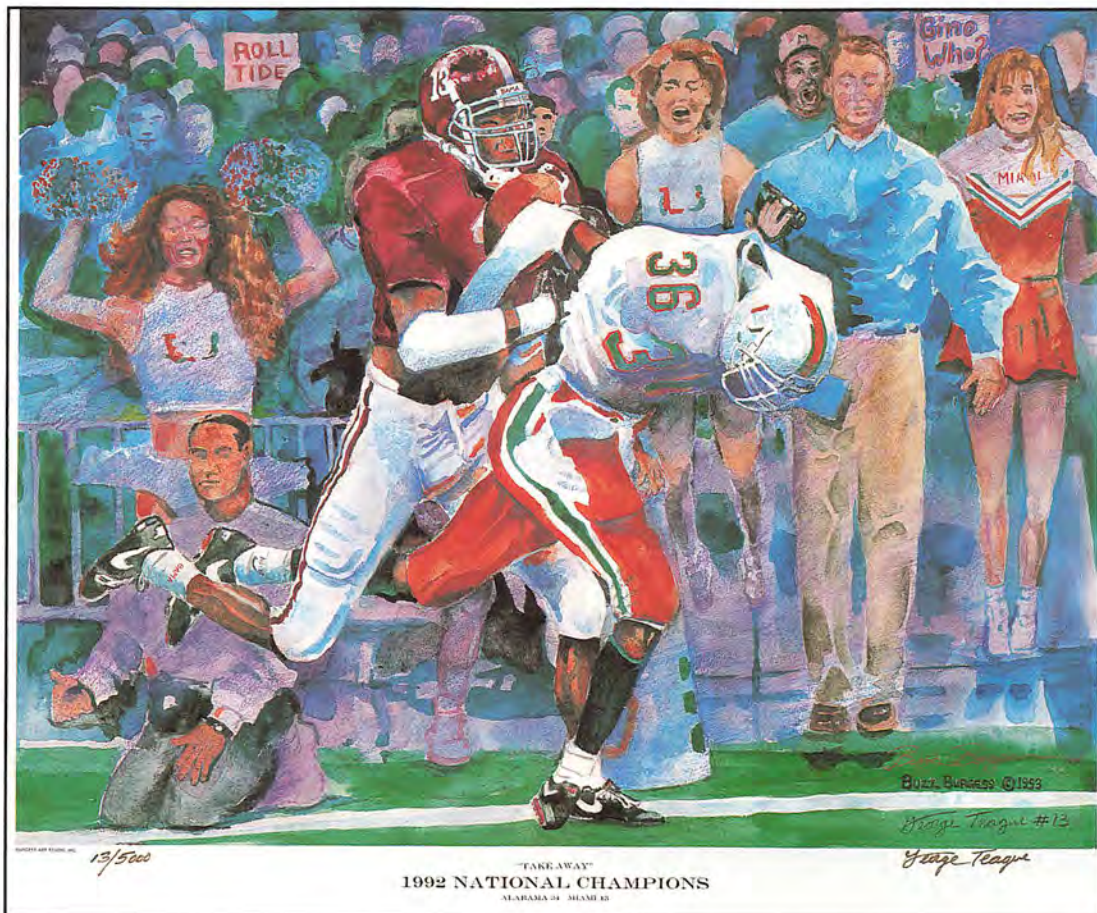
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John Clay:

Fifth-Year Senior Earns Top Spot

by Kirk McNair

Linebacker tradition brought him to Tide, but now he plays in the offensive line



John Clay ate himself to a new position, then worked his way to first team there. Although many assessments of Alabama's 1993 football team will note that Clay "inherited" the left guard position left vacant by the graduation of George Wilson, Alabama Assistant Coach Jim Fuller, who coaches Crimson Tide centers and guards, doesn't see it that way. "John worked hard to earn the spot," Fuller said. "He has played—and played well—for us in the past. He just hasn't played enough."

If there is one regret about 1992 on Fuller's part, it is that Clay, an upcoming fifth-year senior, did not see more playing time in the Tide's national championship season. "That's hindsight, of course, but John would be better now if we had played him more last season," Fuller said. "And we should have played him more, because he had earned it. That was my fault."

Clay has good memories of playing last year and in 1991, both seasons spent as a backup offensive guard. But Clay didn't come to Alabama as an offensive lineman. Although he was an outstanding center at Baylor School in Chattanooga, he was also a fine linebacker and he let recruiters know he wanted to be recruited as a linebacker. He also said he picked Alabama "because of its linebacker tradition and because I thought it was the best place to win a national championship."

Alabama still has good linebacker tradition and Clay now sports a national championship ring, but Clay's linebacking career ended a couple of years and nearly 50 pounds ago.

After being redshirted and playing linebacker on the scout team in 1989, Clay was technically a backup linebacker in 1990. But, in truth, almost all his playing time came as a member of the special teams, not as a linebacker. "I was 6-2 and 218 pounds when I came here and only about 225 when the 1990 season started," he said. "But sitting on the bench in games and mostly being on one knee watching practice, along with the good food at Bryant Hall, by the end of the season I was up to 245. About the only exercise I was getting was the running at the end of practice. I also realized I was too slow (about 4.7) to play linebacker in our scheme."

The switch came in the spring of 1991. Clay spent that season primarily as a backup at both left and right guard spots, and came very close to earning a starting job. However, just before the Georgia game that year Clay became dehydrated to the extent he had to be hospitalized. His first start would not come until late in the season, against Mississippi State when right guard Jon Stevenson was injured.

While both Fuller and Clay wish Clay had played more last year, both expect the 6-2, 270-pound senior to be just fine at left guard in 1993. "First of all," Fuller said, "John is very intelligent. The second thing is that he works so hard, in practice and in the weight room. And while he may have been a little slow to play linebacker, he's got very good speed for an offensive lineman. The only thing he's shy on compared to the other starting offensive linemen is playing experience."

Bama returns with both starting tackles from 1992, Matt Hammond on the left side and Roosevelt Patterson on the right, the All-Southeastern Conference center in Tobie Sheils, and starting right guard Stevenson. Of particular importance to Clay is that the men next to him are real veterans; Hammond

John Clay was a backup offensive guard the past two years, but in the spring he did what he had to do to earn the number one position for his final Crimson Tide season.

Barry Fikes Photo

will be starting for the fourth season, Sheils for the third.

"It's definitely an advantage to have that experience around me," Clay said. "But it's not like I don't know what to do. I haven't played a lot, but I've played some with them. It's not like they have to get used to me or me to them. In practice last year I always rotated with George, and so I got a lot of practice time with the starters. Then in the spring I had it just about every snap."

Clay is well aware of the importance of experience in the offensive line. "People don't realize it, but the offensive line is like a team within a team," he said. "It's critical that offensive linemen are used to playing with each other. A couple of years ago the offensive line was considered a weakness for us because we didn't have guys who had played a lot together. Then last year, after a couple of years together, the offensive line became a strength. We started a little slow, but once we got in the groove we started clicking. And it should be again this year. You could have five All-America players, but if they weren't used to playing with each other they wouldn't look like All-Americans."

Clay's fondest memories of his Alabama football career to this date are the obvious ones, headed by winning the national championship last year. He also has good memories of the first win over Auburn he was a part of in 1990 and Bama's dramatic 9-6 victory over Tennessee that year. And personally, he takes a lot of satisfaction in being a part of a 19-play, 98-yard touchdown drive against Arkansas and the Tide's second half explosion against Tulane last year. "Even though the game wasn't on the line, that drive against Arkansas was a lot of fun," he said. "Most people don't think we had any problem against Tulane, but I think our second half was a big point in our season. I don't know where our heads were in the first half, but the second half we got it together."

Although fall training is just around the corner, it is spring training where work got started in earnest to defend the national championship. While most of the attention was on other positions—replacing runners on offense and linemen on defense—Bama coaches were also closely watching the battle at left guard. Clay held off a determined bid from sophomore Maurice Belser. "Maurice wants to play, too," Fuller said. "But John had a very good spring."

"I felt I had a good spring," Clay said. "It was sort of new being number one, but it wasn't hard to get used to working with the other guys all the time."

Clay didn't think he started off well. "I

didn't do well in my first scrimmage," he said. "I made up my mind after that that I was going to have to work harder, and I did. I did much better as we went along."

Clay has gotten better every season at Alabama. "I'm a much better football player now than when I came," he said. "In high school I was so much bigger and stronger than everyone else that it was easy. At this level everyone you play against is at least as big and at least as strong as you are, so you have to learn all the techniques—pass blocking, using your hands, and so on. It's a big learning process. I've got a lot to learn yet, but I'm a whole lot better than I was."

Ask any college lineman the toughest part of his job and the answer invariably will be "pass blocking." Clay said, "Pass blocking is completely opposite what you've always been taught in football: to come off the ball aggressively and knock somebody backwards. In pass blocking, you just don't want to get knocked back yourself. There's a lot to learn and that's where the teamwork on the offensive line really comes in. It takes practice."

"John sometimes gets a little frustrated in pass protection," Fuller said. "He's an aggressive guy, and sometimes it's hard to be patient on pass blocking. He improved a lot on that aspect in the spring, and if he continues to improve he'll be a good player."

And Clay worked hard in the summer. "A key for John will be coming in at 270," Fuller said. Clay will do that. He spent the entire summer in Tuscaloosa, taking some classes (he'll graduate next May with a degree in marketing after having turned in a splendid 3.75 grade point average in the spring semester) and working out. "My schedule was to run Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and lift (weights) Tuesdays and Thursdays," Clay said. "But I lifted all five days." Clay (and all other Tiders) know they'll have a physical examination upon reporting for fall work, and that part of that examination will be an endurance run. For linemen it is eight 220-yard runs that have to be completed in a certain time. "I've practiced the run and made it," Clay said.

And he's strong. He bench presses over 400 pounds and leg presses over 1,200.

Clay thinks the 1993 season will be his last as a football player. "If I happened to get drafted I'd give pro football a try, but I don't expect that to happen," he said. "My plan after graduation is to head to Nashville (his hometown) and get a job."

Clay goes into 1993 penciled in as the starting left guard, a fifth-year senior who is the new man on a veteran offensive line. "It's John's position until someone takes it away from him," Fuller said. "He's always worked hard, and I don't expect he'll relinquish it easily."



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Michael Rogers:

After Interruption, Ready To Return

by Donald F. Staffo

Junior linebacker was top defender, but was unable to participate in big one

Imagine being a key contributor as the Alabama football team went undefeated throughout 1992, and then having to watch from the sidelines at the Sugar Bowl, the biggest game of the season. Left inside linebacker Michael Rogers' 68 tackles trailed only the 70 of outside linebacker Lemanski Hall during the regular Crimson Tide season. But Rogers was unable to add to his total against Miami in the national championship game in New Orleans.

Alabama football players had a short break for the Christmas holidays before assembling in New Orleans. Early in the morning of December 24, Rogers was in a car with three of his friends from high school. It was a wet night in Luverne and the car went out of control and flipped. The driver was not injured and one passenger suffered only minor injuries. But one of the young men was killed. And Rogers suffered a severe concussion, a groin injury, and lacerations. He was hospitalized for nearly a week, then was released in time to ride with friends to New Orleans to join his teammates on the sidelines for the Sugar Bowl on January 1.

"It was a disappointment to not be able to play, but that doesn't compare to the disappointment of losing one of my best friends (James Patterson)," Rogers said. "During the game it was tough on me. It was more than a letdown; it was depressing. We had worked so hard to get to that game, and then I had to miss it."

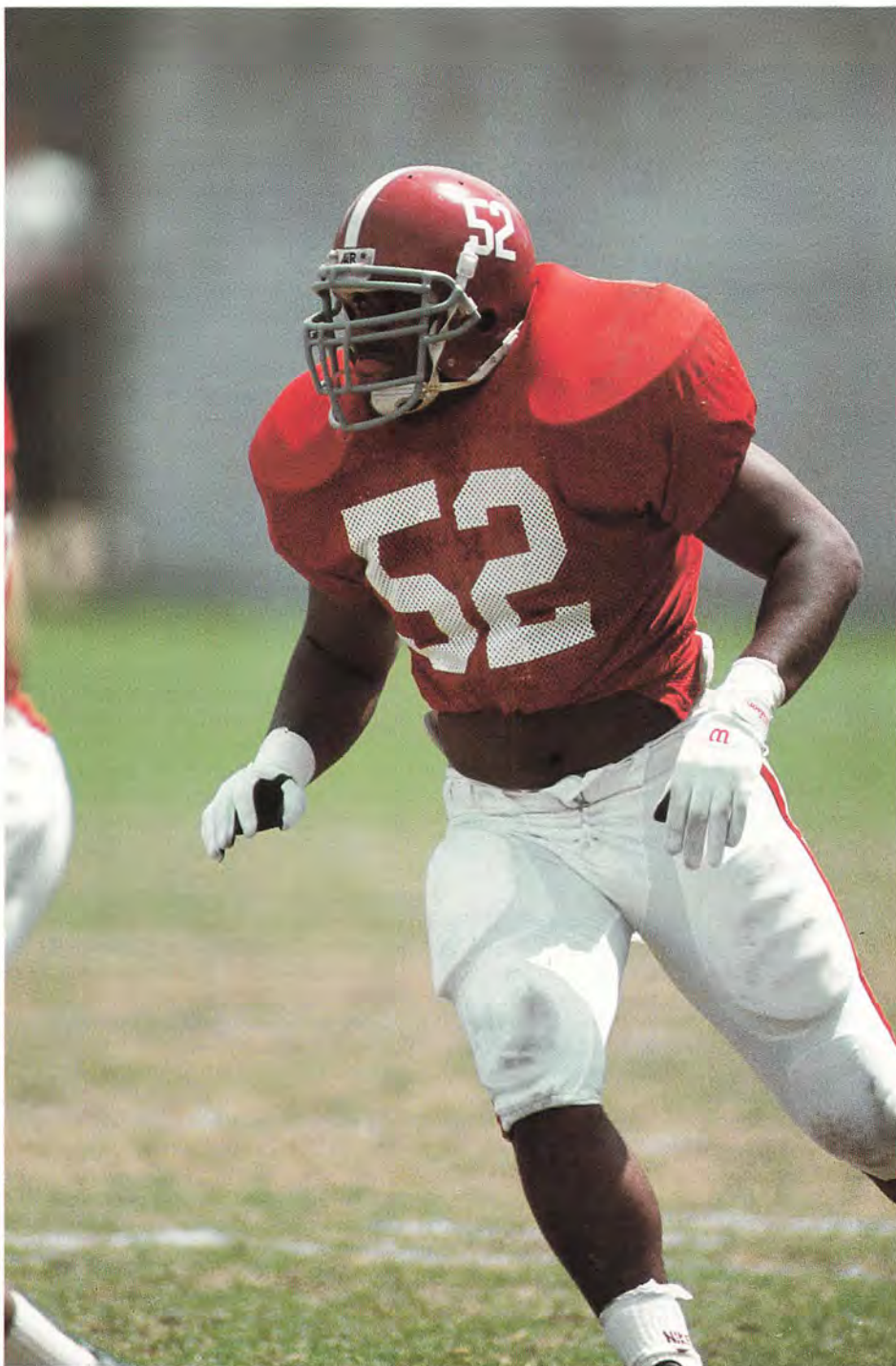
Despite being unable to participate in the game, Rogers said he still felt a part of the national championship team. And he should. His contributions certainly were significant in the Tide's march to the top of the college football mountain.

Consider two of Alabama's biggest wins of the season:

In the Southeastern Conference Championship Game against Florida, the dangerous Gators' quarterback Shane Matthews had one final chance after the

Michael Rogers was the second-leading tackler for Alabama during the 1992 regular season, then had to miss the Sugar Bowl after being injured in an automobile accident. He is anxious for Bama to return to the Sugar Bowl this season.

Barry Fikes Photo



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Tide took a 28-21 lead. Derrick Oden tipped a Florida pass and Rogers picked it off to seal the victory. "It was their last possession, and after I made the interception I knew we won," Rogers said. "The play really stands out in my mind because there was so much at stake."

Earlier in the season against Tennessee Rogers was involved in a similar situation. Tennessee trailed by only a touchdown, 17-10, with just minutes to play in Knoxville. Heath Shuler, the Vols' outstanding quarterback, threw one over the middle. Rogers got a hand on the ball and it went to Tide safety Chris Donnelly for the interception, assuring Bama of a seventh straight victory over Tennessee. "That was probably my best game," Rogers said. In addition to the tip, he had a team-high eight tackles against the Vols.

Having paid the fiddler for 12 games, then not being able to take part in the big dance has made Rogers more determined to help Alabama return to the Big Easy to defend its national title. "That has definitely given me extra motivation," he said. "Every football player wants to play in a game like that. What happened to me just makes me want to work harder so I can help the team get back there next

year, and so that I can be a part of it."

A key for Rogers will be backing up that pledge with better off season and practice habits. "If I could change anything about myself it would be my attitude toward football practice," he said. "When it comes to game time, I can turn it on. But I'm not the practice player that I would like to be. Coach (Jeff) Rouzie lets me know that I'm lazy. He calls me that all the time."

Rouzie, who coaches Alabama's inside linebackers, said, "Yes, Mike's lazy. He's got to learn that it's more than just turning it on in a game. It's a matter of developing good work habits. Mike will never be as good as he can until he starts developing those habits."

Although given medical clearance for spring practice, Rogers still had only limited work, in part because Tide Head Coach Gene Stallings wanted to ease the linebacker into football contact and in part because he was hampered by the groin injury suffered in the automobile accident.

"Naturally he was a little behind and a little rusty because of his circumstances, but he can make that up," Rouzie said. "But there was no shyness in contact."

"I got some good work in, but I just

wasn't able to do all of the things that I'm capable of," Rogers said. "The groin still bothered me. It affected my lateral movement and my ability to change directions."

At the end of spring training Rogers thought he was in good enough shape to play, but not at top form. And he pledged to work hard in the summer to be in good condition for the start of fall drills. If he has held up to that pledge, it will mark a change. Last year he was penciled in as a starter following 1992 spring practice, but when he reported back in the fall he was not in good shape and he did not start in the season-opener against Vanderbilt. It would be the only game prior to the Sugar Bowl in which he did not start.

Rogers admits to not being fully prepared for the beginning of fall work last year. But once inserted into the game, he made his presence known. In the fourth quarter of that opener against Vandy he intercepted a pass and returned it 36 yards for a touchdown and the final points in the 25-8 win over the Commodores. (The play is memorable in great part because Rogers hesitated near the goalline to allow Lemanski Hall time to come up and eliminate the last potential tackler with a vicious block.)

Rogers remembers the scoring play clearly. "It was a delay pass to the tight end and I had a good read and good break on the ball," he said. "After I caught it I got a great block from Lemanski and it was a clear field, nothing but green ahead of me. I kind of walked in."

"The only player who tackled me was (teammate) Derrick Oden in the end zone."

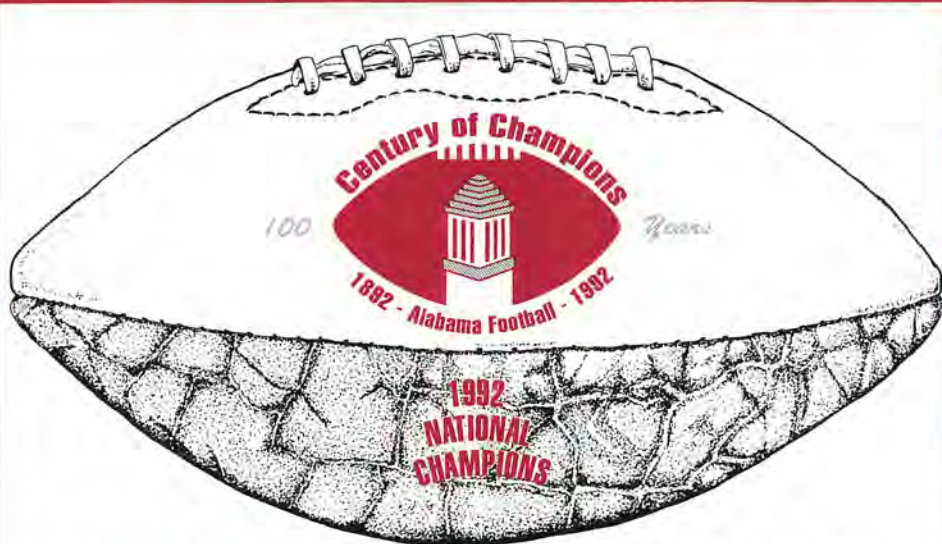
But that was last year. Like all coaches, Rouzie is more concerned about this year.

"The goal this year is for Mike to be in the best physical condition possible when we start practice," Rouzie said. "Mike has a lot of God-given ability and can be as good a football player as he wants to be. He's got good speed, good peripheral vision, and he has a knack for finding the football."

Rogers, 6-1, 220, bench presses 360, squats 450 and runs a 4.6 40-yard dash. "But," Rouzie said, "Mike needs to get stronger and more flexible, and he must do that in the off season. He has to become committed to football year-round. We've talked about it and I think Mike realizes that now. He is a little more mature now. He understands that this year there will be more responsibility on him. We lost Oden, so Mike's the old man of the linebackers. He's got to take more of a leadership role."

Rogers claims he's now on the same page with his position coach. "I used to think practice was a chore, but I've changed my mind," he said. "I know now that if I want to get better that I've got to

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practice harder. My attitude toward practice is much better. Coach Rouzie is a great motivator, and he'll get me there."

With Oden gone, and even with Mario Morris (who replaced Rogers as the starter in the Sugar Bowl) returning, the inside linebacker corps is a young, relatively inexperienced one. Rogers, an upcoming junior, is counted on to anchor the middle with Morris expected to be beside him in Oden's old spot. Jeff Torrence and John Walters got a little work as freshmen last year. Lamont Floyd is an upcoming red-shirt freshman. There are also a handful of talented walk-on players, including Jeff Foshee, Johnny Hutt and Howie Fell. Incoming freshmen Tyrell Buckner and Patrick Hape and, possibly, Fernando Davis will also get a look at inside linebacker spots.

It is a bit of a surprise that Rogers suits up in Crimson and White. Rogers was a highly-recruited player from Luverne, where he starred both as a running back and linebacker. He averaged seven yards per attempt as a runner, 12 tackles per game on defense. He also had eight pass interceptions as a senior, returning four of them for touchdowns including one 65-

yarder. But his long touchdown play came on offense, a 99-yard gallop.

Rogers makes no bones about preferring defense. "I'd rather hit someone than be hit," he explained.

Rogers takes a great deal of pride in helping his high school coach, Glen Daniels, become the winningest coach in Alabama prep history. "He's the Bear Bryant of high school football," Rogers said. The four Luverne teams Rogers played on went 36-9.

Most expected Rogers to sign with Auburn, where his brother Lamar (now a starter with the Cincinnati Bengals of the National Football League) had played. "I tell people that I'm smarter than he was," Michael said with a smile. "I was offered scholarships by eight or nine schools and it came down to Alabama and Auburn. After I made my official visit here, I knew Alabama was the place for me. I liked the atmosphere, the coaches, and the Alabama tradition."

And, Rogers said, Auburn coaches may have taken him for granted. "They didn't recruit me as hard as Alabama did," he said. "Maybe they thought I would go there just because my brother was there. But I didn't want to go where I would al-

ways be known as Lamar's little brother. I wanted to make a name for myself."

He has started that process. After being redshirted in 1990, Rogers stepped in for an injured Derrick Oden and started three games in 1991. He made 40 tackles and recovered a fumble en route to being named to the *Knoxville News-Sentinel* SEC All-Freshman Team. Last year his 68 tackles (10 for losses) and two interceptions earned him Sophomore All-America by *Football News*.

With two years of eligibility left, provided he has fully recovered from his automobile injuries and (more important) truly turned over a new leaf regarding the way in which he approaches off season work and practice, Michael Rogers' football future looks bright. "Mike is a guy with a lot of ability who has played well for us in the past and who can play even better," Rouzie said.

Rogers would like to remove that "Sophomore" qualifier from the All-America honor he earned last year. And while he didn't care to join his brother at Auburn, he would eventually like to join him in the NFL. If nothing else, he seems to understand that it is up to him to play to his exceptional potential.

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Jeremy Nunley:

He's Filling Big Shoes

by John Barnes

Senior defensive end believes Tide can be as good as last year

Jeremy Nunley knows he has his work cut out for him. The heir-apparent to Eric Curry at the starting right defensive end spot knows he has some big shoes to fill. However, the 6-5, 270-pound senior from Winchester, Tennessee, seems to have things in the proper perspective. "There's no way I'll ever be an Eric Curry or John Copeland," said Nunley. "All I can do is try to be the best Jeremy Nunley I can."

Nunley and Defensive Line Coach Mike Dubose agree that comparisons to Curry and Copeland are inevitable. "I doubt if a game will go by when someone does not say what John or Eric would have done in a certain situation," said Nunley. "I really can't worry about that. I think our line this year is really going to surprise some people. Most of the guys have been here all summer and are very dedicated to improving. I think that by the time the first game rolls around, we'll be a solid unit. There won't be as much of a drop-off as people think."

Perhaps. But few would argue that replacing two consensus All-Americans is a tall order, even for the most accomplished linemen. Dubose feels that while there will be a slight drop in starting talent, the Tide will make a definite step up in depth. "There will always be comparisons," he said. "Whether you're comparing Jeremy to Eric Curry or James Gregory to Robert Stewart, each player is an individual with individual talents. When John Copeland first got here, people were comparing him to George Thornton. It's not fair, but there's nothing you can do about it."

Signed by Bill Curry's staff as an outside linebacker in 1989, Nunley was quickly moved to defensive end by Dubose and Stallings in 1990. Nunley spent the better

Jeremy Nunley, an upcoming senior defensive end, was the backup to a pair of All-America players last year, but he has already seen his share of big game action.

Barry Fikes Photo



Jeremy Nunley (73) and teammates has plenty of reasons to celebrate in a 13-0 season last year. Nunley came to Alabama to win championships and thinks the Tide can win some more in 1993.

part of Alabama's 1990 campaign settling into his new position and learning Dubose's complicated scheme. However, he managed to get some significant playing time, recording four sacks, including a critical sack of Auburn's Stan White in Alabama's 16-7 victory. Nunley's efforts were good enough to earn him a spot on the Southeastern Conference All-Freshman Team, as well as earning *Football News* Freshman All-America honors.

In 1991, Nunley played in all 11 games for the Tide, recording 21 tackles, a sack, two tackles behind the line and a blocked field goal. "That was a good year for me," he said. "Although my stats weren't quite as good as my freshman year I felt like I settled into the position and played some pretty good football." It was early in the year when Nunley believes Alabama set its sights on winning a national championship. "That Florida game (a 35-0 loss) really did something to this football team. I've never been involved in a game before when everyone just gave up. We got drilled and we knew it. We simply refused to let it happen again. We all learned a

lot. We haven't lost since (23 straight games), so there must be something to it."

Nunley, like the rest of his teammates, continues to bask in the glow of Alabama's national title. Coming into his own as a member of Alabama's vaunted stop troops, Nunley was a solid backup at all three defensive line positions. In the Southeastern Conference Championship Game against Florida, Nunley received his first college start, taking over for an injured James Gregory at nose tackle. Despite Steve Spurrier's brilliant game plan, Nunley played solid defensive football, recording six tackles and three quarterback pressures. "It was great to start in such an historic game," he said. "Their game plan kept us on our heels a lot, but we did what we had to do to win. It got a little hairy there for a while, but looking back, I wouldn't want it any other way."

Playing in the shadow of two All-Americans would be a humbling experience for many players. Not so for Nunley. "Watching those guys play was great experience for me," he said. "It caused me to play even harder when I was in the game. Most people think John and Eric

were good because of brute strength, but they were tremendous technique players also. Coach Dubose is so good at teaching technique. If you have the basic tools, you have the opportunity to be a good football player here."

Dubose believes Nunley does indeed have the tools to become a good defensive end. "Jeremy is already a pretty good pass rusher," he said. "He's not quite where we would like him to be, but no one else is, either. Like so many of our players, he has a problem keeping his weight up once two-a-days start. He can be an effective pass rusher at a lower weight, but in order to be a complete three-down player, he needs the size and strength to play in two-gap situations. The thing about Jeremy is that he is so competitive and has so much heart and desire. The fact that he is so competitive can help make up for any potential lack of size."

As Nunley prepares to anchor Alabama's 1993 defensive line, he realizes that Alabama will be a marked team. "We've got to be ready for just about anything this year," he said. "Everybody wants a piece of Alabama and we'll have to take it week-to-week just like we did last year. I'll always believe the key to our success last season is that we stayed focused on the next opponent. We never looked ahead, which is very hard to do. I think that's what makes Coach Stallings so successful: the ability to keep his players thinking about the task at hand."

Alabama's 1993 season will be filled with pressure. Pressure to win every week. Pressure to repeat. Nunley believes there will be pressure, but nothing the team can't handle. "First of all, I hate the word 'pressure.' The only pressure on us will be created by the media. People always ask me, 'How will you replace Eric Curry or Derrick Oden or George Teague?' What they don't realize is that we've got some guys out here who can flat play. Eric and John are gone, but I feel like myself, Elverett (Brown), Damien (Jeffries) and Ozell (Powell) will get the job done. If we prepare for each game the way we did last year, there's no reason why we can't repeat. We may not, but it won't be from lack of effort. If we get beat, it's because we played a better team."

If Alabama is to repeat as national champion, it must get by Nunley's home state Tennessee Volunteers. Although the Tide owns a seven-game win streak over the Vols, first-year Tennessee Coach Phil Fulmer promises a more wide-open, less conservative attack. "The Tennessee game has special significance for me," said Nunley. "I have to go home every now and then, you know. It makes it a lot more fun knowing I've never lost to U-T. For guys like myself and Antonio London, (also a Tennessee native) it means a great deal to beat those guys."

Although recruited by Tennessee, Nunley's future as a Crimson Tider was never in jeopardy. "I knew I would sign with Alabama all along, although I never let the Tennessee people know that," he said. "I felt like they took it for granted that I would automatically go to Tennessee. We had some conflict over one of my visits and that sort of turned me off. I wanted to go someplace where I would have a chance to win an SEC or maybe even a national championship. Alabama seemed like the logical choice."

That goal having been accomplished, Nunley looks forward to a starting job and the opportunity to further Bama's reputation as a defensive powerhouse. "We've got some guys coming back, as well as some new guys, that will really surprise some people. I'm really excited about Elverett Brown. He had a great spring and has the potential to be a dominating player. Damien and I have been around awhile and know the system." Add to that equation newcomers Ozell Powell, Bryan Thornton and Laron White and newcomers Kendrick Burton (a sophomore who was academically ineligible last year) and freshman Edgar Walker, Alabama could conceivably go three deep along the defensive front—a dilemma most teams would welcome.

How does Dubose feel about his charges for 1993? "We've got some guys with great potential, but we don't have enough complete football players. Some of the guys, like Jeremy, are good pass rushers, while others are good against the run. We'll have to do a good job as coaches of substituting to get people in the right situation for their talents."

Alabama has built its reputation on defense. Dubose feels that, given time, Nunley and his mates can be every bit as dominating as last year's unit. "We feel comfortable that we've got some quality players," he said. "Like I said, none of them are where we would like them to be, but that's not unusual for this time of year. I'll know a lot more after the first week of two-a-days. It's hard to get a good read on these guys in spring practice. We got in only eight days in pads over a five week period. It doesn't give you a whole lot of continuity. I have no doubt they'll come together as a unit. When that will be remains to be seen."

The Tide's 1992 defensive unit was regarded by many as one of the best ever assembled by a college team. Nunley agrees, but believes the 1993 defense will eventually be just as suffocating. "Last year, we knew going in that we could dominate just about any team along the defensive front," he said. "I don't think we've reached that point yet this year, but if we get to the point where the backups are playing as well as the starters, I think we'll be every bit as dominating."

Like last year, Alabama's schedule affords some time for growth. With the offensive line returning virtually intact, Nunley and the rest of the Bama "D" may spend more time on the sideline than last year. "No problem," said Nunley. "If the offense can march up and down the field with the ball, it will keep us fresher and help us to be more effective."

For Nunley, following a player like Curry—All-America, first round draft choice, potential defensive rookie of the

year—presents both problems and promise. Comparisons will be made. It's the nature of the game. "I know expectations will be high. That's the way it is when you play for The University of Alabama. There have been so many great players, I won't be the first to follow an All-America. But I hope it will cause me to elevate the level of my play. I would rather follow Eric Curry than never have known what it was like to play on the same team with him."

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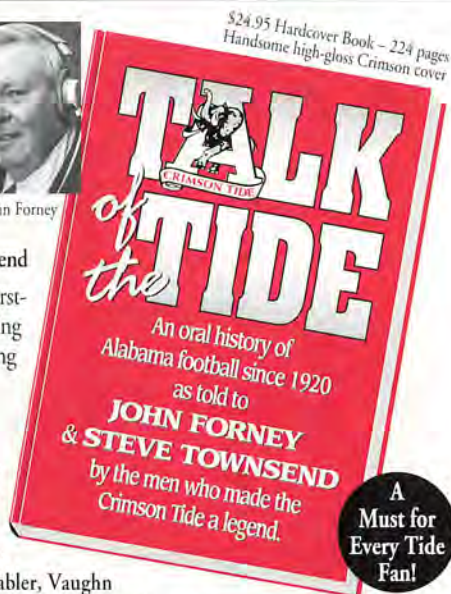
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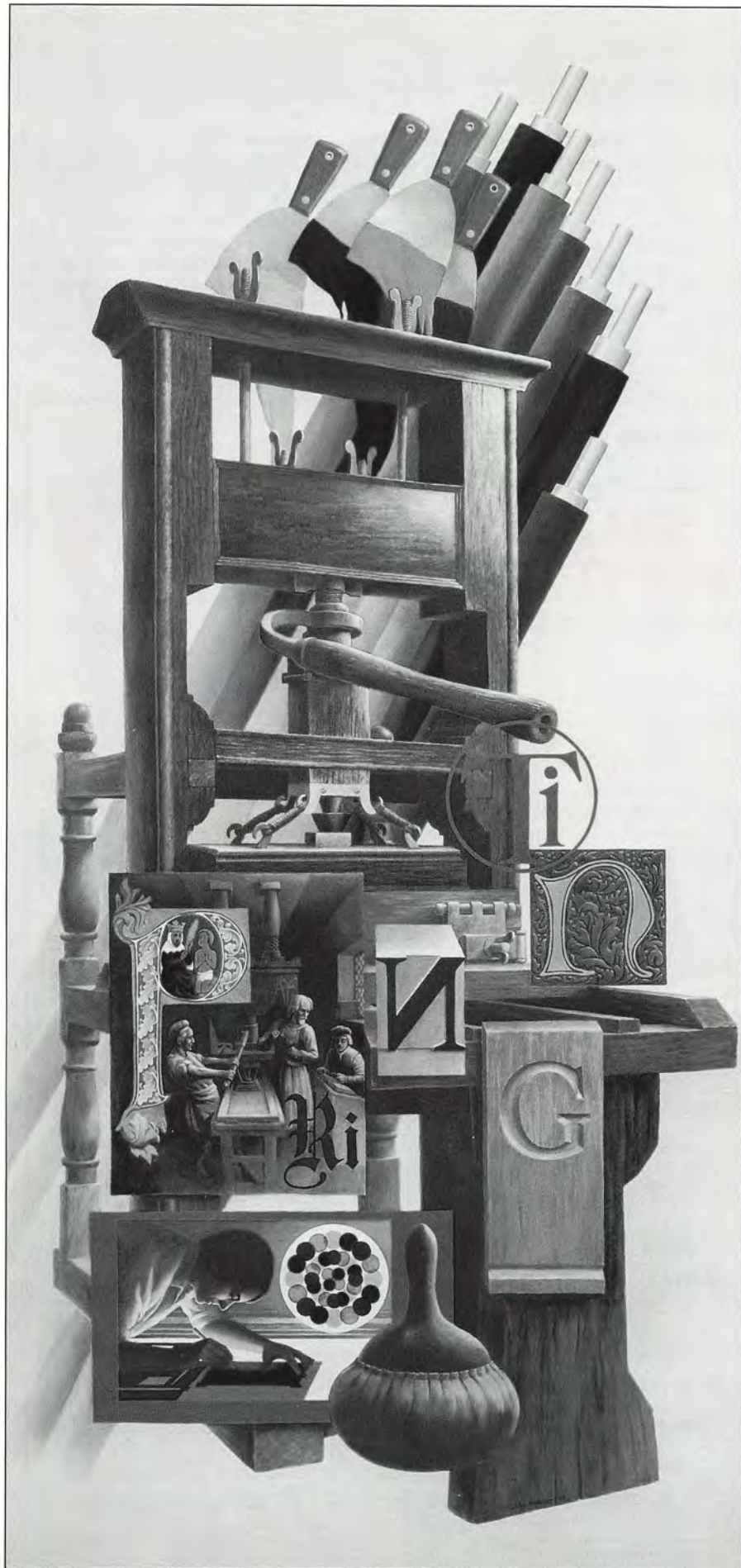
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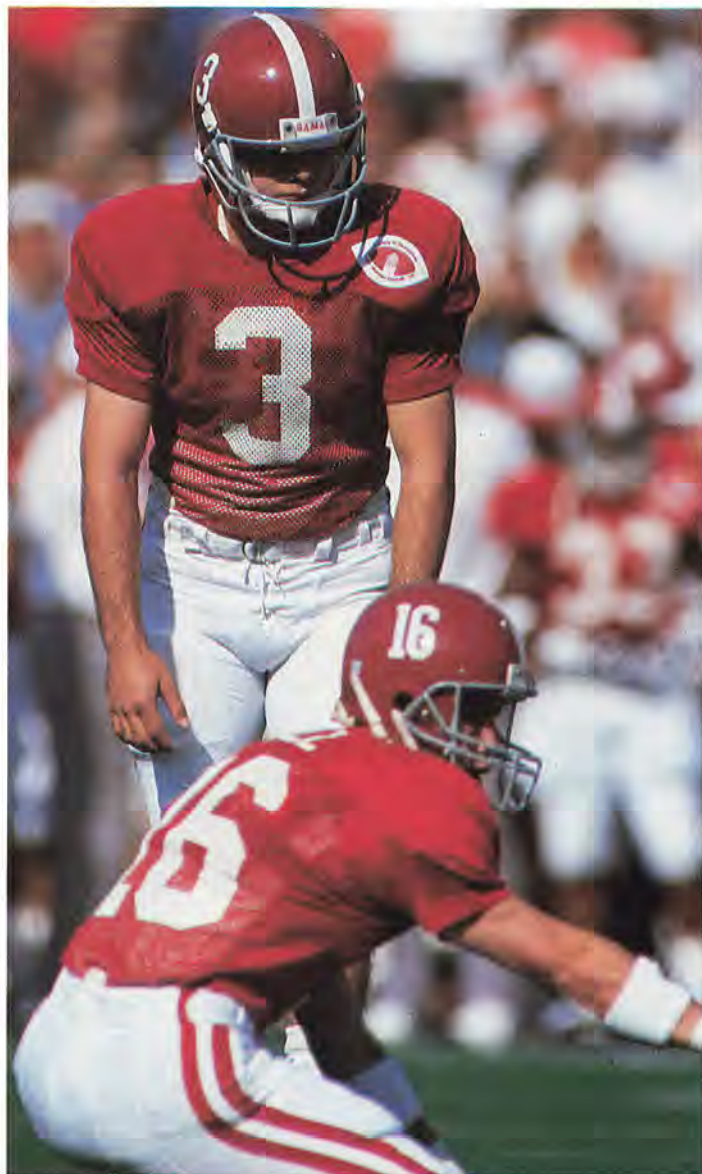
He Gives The Tide A Kick

by Kirk McNair

The work of a freshman placekicker was an important aspect of Alabama's 1992 success, and he sees more good in '93

It is well known that Alabama Head Coach Gene Stallings had said prior to the 1992 football season that he thought Alabama would "be back" to where Bama fans expected the Crimson Tide in 1993. One reason the Tide got ahead of schedule, Stallings said, is that "Michael answered the question in the kicking game."

Michael is Michael Proctor. The 5-10, 180-pound sophomore had a sensational 1992 season, scoring an Alabama freshman record 94 points and earning Freshman All-America by *Football News* and Southeastern Conference All-Freshman Team by the



Knoxville News-Sentinel. Although Proctor has not yet had a dramatic, last play kick to compare with the Van Tiffin field goal that defeated Auburn in 1985 or the Philip Doyle three-pointer for the upset of Tennessee in Knoxville in 1990, he may have had a more valuable kick than either of those: an extra point.

The extra point in question came in the inaugural SEC Championship Game in Birmingham last December. It didn't seem so monumental at the time, since it gave Alabama a 21-7 lead over Florida. But it was not a routine kick. Alabama was penalized and penalized again, and all of a sudden a routine extra point was a 45-yarder, only two yards shorter than the longest field goal Proctor had made all year. The importance of that single point came later, when Florida tied the game at 21. Had Proctor not made it, Florida would have led, and would not have been passing late in the game. A Florida pass, picked off by Bama's Antonio Langham, provided the final points.

"I guess that was my career-long extra point," Proctor said. "I knew there was a penalty, but thought it would be on kickoff. But it still wasn't bad. Then there was another penalty. But I still thought of it as just an extra point. I didn't let the pressure get to me."

Alabama's victory in that SEC Championship Game led to the big enchilada—the national championship game against Miami in the Sugar Bowl. Although Bama eventually blew that game open, winning 34-13 for the Tide's record 13th victory and the national title, every point was critical in the early going and Proctor was happy to get quick points.

"I was very glad that I got to kick a field goal on the first drive," Proctor said. "I got in the game early and didn't have to wait around for a pressure situation. It was a nice, short field goal." The 19-yarder gave Bama a 3-0 lead and his 23-yarder in the second quarter gave the Tide the lead for good at 6-3.

"The whole week was real fun," Proctor said. "Miami was doing a lot of talking, but when it came down to game time, it went our way. I'm still kind of in awe that we were in the Sugar Bowl."

Proctor's kicks in the Superdome were not his first. "It probably helped that I had kicked there before," Proctor said. "I had confidence in knowing I had kicked well there against Tulane." Although Bama's first trip to the Superdome last season resulted in one of the Tide's most lopsided scores, 37-0 over Tulane, it was not as easy as it sounds now. Bama led by only 3-0 at the end of the first quarter (Proctor's 42-yard field goal) and by only 6-0 at halftime (Proctor adding a 39-yard field goal). The third field goal of the game, Proctor nailing a 27-yarder, made it 9-0 before Alabama started scoring touchdowns.

Proctor got his Alabama career off on the right foot in 1992. He opened the season with a kickoff into the end zone, bringing a huge ovation from Bama faithful in Birmingham. But it was his opening-game field goal kicking that earned him SEC Offensive Player of the Week honors. Alabama's first drive resulted in a 46-yard Proctor field goal (marking the sixth straight year Alabama has scored on its opening drive of the season). Later in the first quarter he had a 43-yarder and a 42-yarder. In the fourth quarter he connected on a 32-yard field goal that pushed Bama to a 19-8 lead over Vanderbilt.

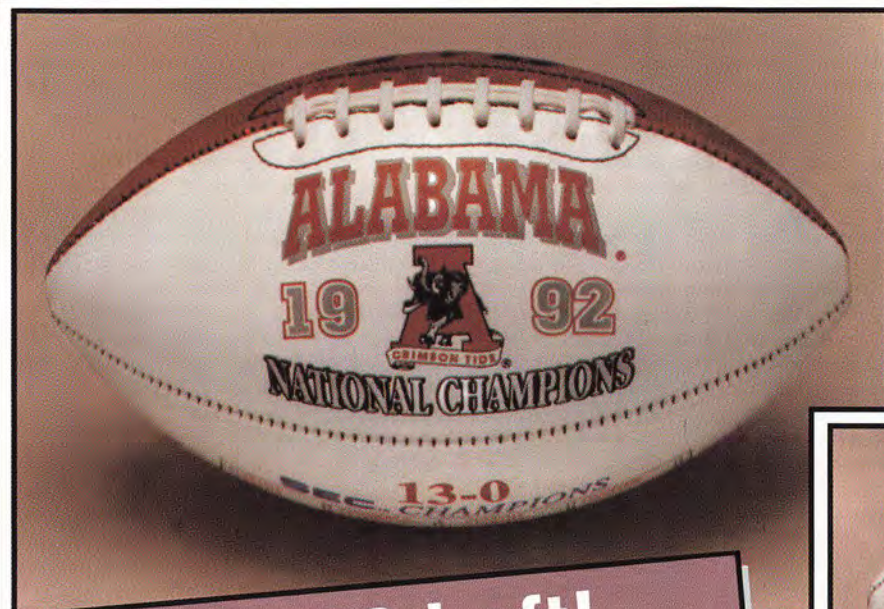
"It was like I was in a zone," Proctor said. "I couldn't miss. I wasn't really thinking. I was just going out there and doing it. It was a big relief to get that first one. I wasn't really nervous, but I was aware fans were expecting a good kicker. I went out there and did what I could do."

Proctor said he wasn't happy with his work against Southern

Michael Proctor set an Alabama record with his 94 points as a freshman and big things are expected of him again this year.

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Miss (although he did have a 25-yard field goal to tie the game late in the third quarter) or Arkansas (where he had a 22-yard field goal in a 38-11 runaway). "Then I began practicing harder and concentrating more," he said. "After the first game I had thought this is easy. Then I realized it wasn't quite that easy. I think I worked harder and had a more consistent season."

While most of the accolades rightfully went to defensive back Antonio Langham in Bama's stretch run last year, Proctor also had some important moments. The Crimson Tide was in a dogfight at Mississippi State, trailing 20-21 going to the final quarter. Midway through the final period Mississippi State fumbled a punt and that led to a 26-yard field goal by Proctor that gave the Tide a 23-21 lead en route to a 30-21 win that clinched the SEC West Division championship. "That was a good one to kick for us," Proctor said. "I hadn't really been in that situation all year. I knew if I made that one Coach Stallings would have confidence in me. It was a big one for me and for the team."

Proctor also liked his final field goal of regular season play. "It was a good kick for me because it was my first one against Auburn," he said. "And it was a fairly long one." It was a 47-yarder, Proctor's longest of the year.

For the year he was good on 19 of 27 field goal attempts and 37 of 38 extra points, the lone miss a blocked kick by Vanderbilt.

"It was a good first season and a good situation I came into," Michael (no one calls him Mike) said. "I feel I personally had a good season, but I could have improved on some things. But for the most part I think I was successful in doing my job." That work earned him numerous freshman awards and he was also second team All-SEC.

Proctor is the first to admit that he didn't come close to earning academic honors in his first year, but he is a little peeved at information (and misinformation) spread about him over the past few months. Here are the facts:

Proctor did not do well academically his first semester. He did well his second semester (he is majoring in communications). He went to the interim term between spring semester and summer school. He did not have to go to summer school to earn eligibility. And the bottom line: Michael Proctor is academically eligible.

"It didn't bother me a lot, but it surprised me that so many people didn't have anything better to talk about," he said. "There are more important things for radio talk shows to worry about than my grades."

Because he didn't have to go to summer school, Proctor has spent the time improving himself athletically. He runs and lifts weights for football. But mainly he's tried to improve himself as a golfer. "I've played

a lot of golf and cut some strokes off my game," he said of his summer at his home in Pelham. He planned to return to Tuscaloosa "a little before time to report" which is August 11. And before he returns he will get back into a regimen that includes kicking. As most kickers, he takes time away from that aspect of workouts following spring training.

Spring training 1993 was Proctor's first in college. "It was good," he said. "It was a lot different than the season, a lot more laid back." Primary emphasis in the spring was on getting used to a new snapper and a new holder. Johnny Howard, the short snapper last season, and Jeff Wall, the holder, have both graduated. But Proctor is close to the new men in those jobs, fellow members of the special teams from last year. Matthew Pine, who has been the deep snapper on punts, will now make short snaps on field goals and extra points as well. And punter Bryne Diehl, who was a high school quarterback and who handles the football very well, will take over holding duties. Proctor said he did "about the same amount of practice kicking in the spring as last fall, maybe a little more in the spring."

In the spring the placekicking duties were coached primarily by Larry Kirksey and Jim Fuller as Bama went through last season and the spring with each assistant coach handling different phases of the kicking game. However, Stallings indicated late last season he would consider putting one assistant coach in charge of the kicking game and Proctor said that at the end of spring training he was told Danny Pearman, who coaches offensive tackles, would also be in charge of the kicking game.

Nevertheless, placekickers and punters "are pretty much on your own" in practice, Proctor said. "We have specialty work with coaches at the beginning of practice, then a short period of team kicking, and then we work on drills together without coaches."

Proctor has the same style as almost every placekicker, soccer-style. And he has a soccer background. "I started when I was five or six and played some club teams in Birmingham and on a state select team that played throughout Southeast," Proctor said. He also played at Pelham High School for three years, but not senior season (soccer season in high school is spring) after signing his football scholarship with Alabama. Somewhat surprising, Proctor's normal position was sweeper, primarily a defensive player, "like the safety in football," he explained. In addition to learning the soccer style of kicking, Proctor believes his soccer participation gave him leg strength and athletic competitiveness.

He started his football career in the ninth grade at Pelham. "Two of my friends went out and said it was fun and talked me

into it," he said. "The coach for the freshman team knew I played soccer and tried me at kicker. I played on the B team as freshman because Pelham had a senior kicker. Then as tenth grader took over kicking job."

And took it over very well. He set state records with a 60-yard field goal and a perfect 53-53 on extra points for Coach Ronnie Gilliland and was a prep All-America. During his prep career he hit 26 field goals, nine of them over 50 yards.

Also like most college football players, Proctor spent some summers in football camps—the kicking camps at Auburn following his 10th and 11th grades. But Auburn wasn't the draw. "The camps were put on by Carol White, the Georgia Tech kicking coach," he said.

Proctor thinks that his leg strength now is about the same as when he arrived at Alabama, "but I'm a better overall kicker now. I have more confidence and I am more accurate and I think I am better at handling the pressure."

Although he said he doesn't pay attention to preseason college football magazines, Proctor said he is aware that most are predicting a good season for the defending national champions. And he agrees. "It's going to be tough, but I expect a good season," he said. "Everyone will be trying to play their best game against Alabama, and that means we'll have to play at a very high level every week, and that's tough. But I feel we had a good spring in finding people to fill in where we lost good players."

And he expects Michael Proctor to improve. "Last year I seemed to have a hard time with the easy kicks, particularly when they weren't a factor in the game," he said. "When you miss an easy kick, it means you aren't concentrating. That's one area where I expect to improve."

He also has a realistic goal of improving his kickoff work. "Last year I kicked the first one into the end zone, but it wasn't really a great kick," he said. "Then during the season we went to different types of kickoff coverages, usually meaning that I was working on kicking into the corners rather than trying to kick deep into the end zone. During practice for the Sugar Bowl I told the coaches I felt sure I could kick to the end zone, and that's what we did. Every kick went either into the end zone or to about the goalline. I hope the strategy this year is for me to kick it into the end zone. It's a lot easier on the coverage team if you don't have to worry about a runback."

As for his field goals, he expects his range to be greater in 1993. "I think it's reasonable to expect me to hit from 50 to 55 yards on grass and up to about 60 yards on artificial turf," he said.

After his excellent freshman season, there's no reason to doubt those expectations.

New Faces Are In Tide Future

by Donna Fromme

Various sports have added players for the future

Alabama Head Basketball Coach David Hobbs had to play the waiting game... twice. The first was for signed scholarship papers to arrive from Quitman, Mississippi, where Antonio McDyess was one of the nation's top prep basketball prospects. The second was for McDyess's academic eligibility. Happily for Bama basketball, the wait was worth it. McDyess signed with Alabama, then passed the standardized test to make him eligible for a basketball scholarship and to be able to participate as a freshman.

McDyess signed on the final day permissible, May 15. Alabama was in a recruiting battle with Mississippi State for the services of the 6-9, 225-pound forward who was all-state and earned All-America honors. He averaged 26 points, 15 rebounds, 5.3 blocked shots and 2.8 steals per game for Coach Sammy Smith's squad as a senior. Just as big news came in early July when McDyess learned he had earned a passing test score to be eligible for college.

Hobbs and his staff also elected to sign one more player this year. After star guard James Robinson elected to turn professional, the Tide had a lack of depth at the point guard position. Although sophomore Marvin Orange returns as the starter, Robinson had been counted on to move from wing to point as a relief man.

Bama went to the Texas junior college ranks and plucked Terrance Bethel from McLennan College in Waco, Texas. Bethel is a 6-0, 182-pound point guard who averaged 10 points and eight assists per game last season as his team won 30 consecutive games. He signed May 14.

Bethel is a native of the Bronx, New York, where he was an all-star point guard at St. Nicholas of Tolentine.

Bethel's junior college coach, Steve Shields, said, "He is a very good ball-handler and passer. I think he can make a contribution to the Alabama program. Alabama has always been a strong program. I know Terrance is very excited about this opportunity."

Earlier Alabama had announced the signing of Eric Washington, a 6-5 all-state wing player at Pearl High School near Jackson, Mississippi. And in the early signing period last fall Bama picked up 6-5 wing player Artie Griffin of South Plains Junior College in Levelland, Texas.



Heath Gibson

Additionally, Bama will add Jamal Faulkner, a 6-7 transfer from Arizona State, to the Tide roster next season. Faulkner, a former Pac-10 Freshman of the Year, will have two years of eligibility beginning following the fall semester.

The spring signing period has also seen performers added in most other Alabama sports. Here is an update on those signees:

Women's Basketball

Tide Coach Rick Moody added the national junior college scoring leader to Alabama's potent offensive attack. Monique Walls averaged 25.8 points per game at Vincennes University in Richmond, Indiana. She is a 5-8 swing player who was first team junior college All-America in 1993 and honorable mention in 1992. Vincennes went 50-12 the two years she played and she was district "Player of the Year" both seasons. Vincennes is coached by Harry Meeks, former boys basketball coach at Scottsboro High School. Walls, who is an excellent student, had a high game of 42 points last season. She also had 23 free throws in one game.

Moody also added height to his team as 6-1 forward Consuelo Daniels of Rome, Georgia, will transfer to Alabama from Conner State in Oklahoma. Earlier Bama had announced the signing of "Miss Basketball" in Alabama, Leah Montieth, a 5-9 guard from Cherokee County High School in Centre.



Cantillon Brasington

Men's Tennis

Two Tuscaloosa residents are among the freshman class of John Kreis' men's tennis team. Heath Gibson was an all-state player at Tuscaloosa Central High School. He was a state finalist at number one in both singles and doubles and was the 1992 state champion at number four singles. The team captain was honored as the West Alabama Most Valuable Player by *The Tuscaloosa News*. His brother, Brett, played at North Alabama and is now Bama's tennis manager, while his mother, Debbie, is a secretary in the Tide football office.

Also joining the Bama tennis squad from Tuscaloosa is Josh Coleman, who prepped at Tuscaloosa Academy. His older brother, Chuck, just ended his collegiate career as a nationally-ranked player for Notre Dame.

Women's Tennis

Three newcomers signed with Karin Gaiser's women's tennis team. Cantillon Brasington, daughter of former Miami football player Jack Brasington (1970-74), prepped at Miami Killian High School and led her team to a 24-0 record in her sophomore and junior seasons. She was the *Miami Herald* Player of the Year last year and is the top-ranked prep player in Miami. She played on the Florida Nationals Team in 1991 and 1992 and was ranked as high as 14 in the nation in doubles.

Allison Eager, a Delray Beach, Florida, player, has played in the prestigious Easter Bowl and Orange Bowl events for the past



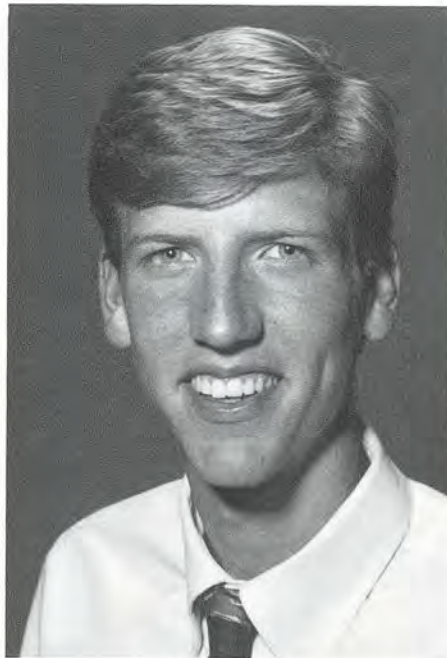
Allison Eager

nine years and is the 1989 Florida State Doubles Champion. She won state, conference and district titles in 1991 and was the 1991 Palm Beach County Player of the Year. She is a member of the National Honor Society.

Also joining the Bama women's tennis team is Hilde Otterman from The Netherlands. She is a four-time district champion and has been ranked as high as 13 in juniors in her country.

Track And Field

Coach Doug Williamson's signees in-



Preston Hill

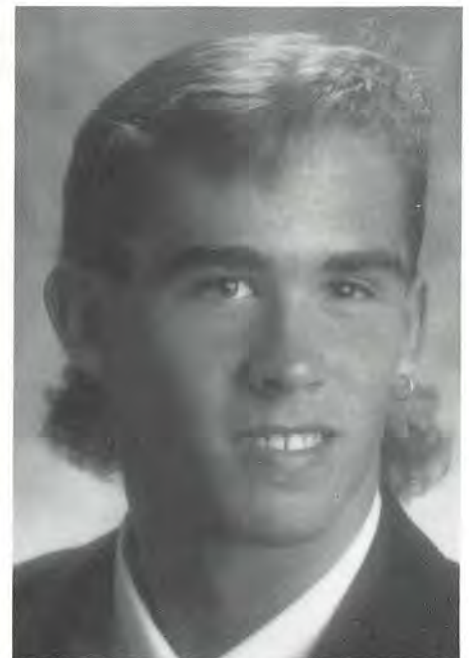
clude particular help for Coach David Troy's Bama cross country team. The Tide previously announced the additions of Preston Hill, the Alabama cross country champion, to the men's team and Becki Wells, a six-time high school national champion distance runner, to the women's team.

Additional signees include: For the men, distance runners Nick Middleton of Indianapolis, Indiana; Brian Hesson of Elba, Ohio; and Jeffrey Ort of Niles, Michigan; and sprinter Omokaro Alohan from Nigeria.

Middleton is the 1992 Indiana state champion in both cross country and the 1600. He is a four-time conference and five-time regional champion. Hesson prepped at Caldwell High School where he was state champion in the 1600 and 3200 the past two years and cross country champion as a senior. He was an All-America in cross country and president of the student council. Ort was all-state in cross country and in the 800, 1600 and 3200 and his school's record-holder in all the measured distance events. He was also an all-conference basketball player.

Alohan won a gold medal at the African National Sports Festival in 1988 as a member of the 4x400 relay team and his school won the state titles from 1986-88. He holds his high school record in the 100 and 200. He is transferring to Alabama from Southern University in Louisiana.

And for the women, Caroline Kerr, who placed fifth in the 800 at the Junior National Championships, signed with the Crimson Tide. The Elora, Ontario, Canada, native is an eight-time provincial 800 meters champion and was also an all-star at 1500. She is an excellent student.



Jeffrey Ort

Swimming And Diving

Coach Jonty Skinner has added Ann-Sofie Jonsson of Eskilstuna, Sweden, to the women's team. Her top events include the 400 individual medley, the 200 butterfly and the 800 freestyle.

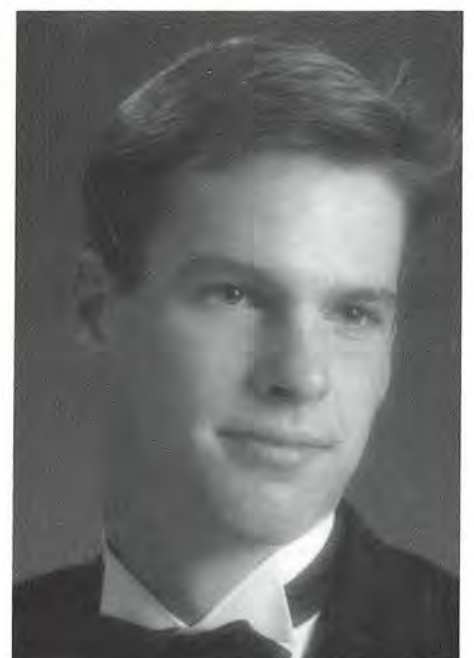
Bama had previously announced the signings of men Chris LeMieux and Scott Bell and woman Monica Geohagan.

Baseball

Although Coach Barry Shollenberger's squad has 11 signees, it is the nature of baseball that Shollenberger will not know



Ann-Sofie Jonsson



Chris LeMieux



David Ray

until the first day of classes this fall exactly how many new players he actually has. That's because of the professional draft. Drafted players may not sign a professional contract if they enter school.

The latest signee is infielder Joe Caruso, an infielder from Lockhaven, Pennsylvania. He led his team in every offensive category.

Previously announced signees are: From junior college, infielder Robbie Hayduk, pitcher Scott Hickox, pitcher/outfielder Pug Wood, and first baseman/outfielder Jason Jordan; and from high school, catcher/outfielder David Ray, pitcher Chris Eilers, pitcher Roger Cainzos, pitcher Ferdie Rodriguez, pitcher/infielder Joel Franks and infielder/outfielder Shane Watts.

Athletes in a number of sports were previously announced as having signed with Alabama. Those Crimson Tide teams with no new signees are:

Men's Golf

Coach Dick Spybey's golf team had earlier announced the signings of Chip Deason and Joe Patton.

Women's Golf

Coach Betty Palmer's newcomers to the women's golf team are Julie Pelcher and Stacy Buersmeyer.

Gymnastics

Coach Sarah Patterson added Kimberly Bonaventura, Meredith Willard and Stephanie Woods to the Bama gymnastics squad.

Volleyball

Coach Dorothy Franco-Reed's five volleyball signees include one *real* newcomer—Lorian Newcomer. The other new signees are Sandy Ford, Tamika McCall, Alberta Sackey and Sheri Thomas.

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Tiders Get It Done In Classroom

by Louise Ford

Alabama has many who qualify as student-athletes

The late Paul Bryant once explained a reason for the emphasis on football at The University of Alabama. "It's hard to rally around a math class," he told a group of New York area journalists. His point was that The University depends in great part on donations from friends and alumni and that they are more interested in every aspect of The University being of top quality when they have something to identify with. That something is athletics.

Nevertheless, more and more there is emphasis on the student in student-athlete. No one has a quarrel with that, even though statistics may sometimes be skewed. (If a school has a low graduation rate, does that mean the students aren't being educated or does it mean that it is a school from which it is difficult to earn a degree?)

Alabama has a large number of athletes who have achieved in the classroom as well as in the arena.

Gymnast Dana Dobransky, a two-time national champion and five-time All-America and Southeastern Conference champion, epitomizes the ideal student-athlete. "Being a student-athlete is balancing your time," she said. "It's being committed to sacrificing some social activities to concentrate on academics and athletics at the same time. Student-athletes, in their minds, exceed the average. They are rising above average rather than being content with mediocrity."

Dobransky definitely rose above average. She is a three-time member of the SEC Academic All-SEC Honor Roll, a three-time Scholastic All-America, and in 1993 won post-graduate scholarships from both the NCAA and the SEC and was co-winner of the Paul W. Bryant Scholar-Athlete Award. She also earned the award as the top senior in the department of telecommunication and film.

Tide baseball player Jeff Laubenthal batted .284 for his career, started every game in 1993 and got a total of 78 career starts while majoring in English and compiling a 3.81 grade point average. He was the 1992 SEC Male Student-Athlete of the Year and was named to the first team GTE Academic All-America team. Jeff was also presented the Paul W. Bryant Scholar-Athlete Award.

Tennis player Titia Wilpink, also a Bryant Scholar-Athlete winner, was an Academic All-America, as well as tennis All-America. She has a 3.91 GPA in sports management.

The Tide's number one golfer, Marten Olander, was winner of the highest academic award in college golf this year, the Ben Hogan Award. Olander also got the job done on the links for the Tide's nationally-ranked team, taking the championship of the Dixie Intercollegiate and placing in the top ten in three other tournaments.

Middle distance runner Marie Ohlund, the 1992 SEC mile champion, was also an Academic All-America in 1993.

While that handful of Tiders earned national honors, there were also a large number of Bama athletes cited at other levels for successfully achieving in the arena and in the classroom.

During the 1992-93 year, 62 Crimson Tide athletes on 13 varsity teams were named to the SEC's Academic Honor Roll. Bama's national championship football team included 11 Academic All-SEC performers. Five of Alabama's seven women golfers, 72 per cent, made the honor squad, and eight of the 14 men's golf team members were Academic All-SEC. The women's swimming and diving team placed six on the honor roll, and both the men's swimming and women's volleyball teams had five athletes honored.

Today the microscope is on graduation rates, and particularly graduation rates in football. Thirteen seniors on Bama's national championship football team earned degrees, including six of those before the 1992 season even got started. Those who finished under graduate work before the beginning of the season were All-America Eric Curry (who had entered Alabama as a Proposition 48 partial qualifier in 1988), Martin Houston, George Wilson, Stan Moss, Willis Bevelle and Jeff Wall. Hamp Greene, Darren Greenwood, Johnny Howard, Myron Pope, Bragg Rockwell, Dabo Swinney and Prince Wimbley earned degrees after the 1992 season. Additionally, two players who will play their final seasons this year—Tobie



Dana Dobransky

Sheils and Matt Hammond—have already completed their under graduate studies and are in the MBA program.

Other awards which reflect academic excellence given to Tide football players following last season include: Honda Scholar-Athlete to Wilson, the Toyota Leadership to Sheils, the Hitachi Promise of Tomorrow to Bart Pritchett and the Black Scholar Award to Tracy High.

Kevin Almond is director of academics for the Crimson Tide Athletics Department. His assistants are Rick Burroughs, John Dever and Brenda Elliot.

"Obviously we're pleased to see our students balancing their academic and athletic demands," Almond said. "They are succeeding in both areas. They are not only competing in athletics at the very highest levels, but they excel in academics and take on leadership roles in campus activities. We feel we are making progress."

Among the many other academic honors won by Crimson Tide athletes during the past year are:

Smith-Corona All-Scholar Women's Golf: Paige Hoeffle, Carrie Allen, Tina Kjellen.

Paul W. Bryant Scholar-Athlete Finalists: Jeff Laubenthal, baseball; Jamie Myers, men's swimming; Rick Witsken, men's tennis; Dana Dobransky, gymnastics; Titia Wilpink, women's tennis; and Kristye Hall, volleyball.

Academic All-SEC: Football—Hamp Greene, Alvin Hope, Martin Houston,



Jeff Laubenthal

Johnny Howard, Stan Moss, Myron Pope, Bart Pritchett, Tobie Sheils, Dabo Swinney, Jeff Wall, George Wilson; Gymnastics-Dana Dobransky, Sheryl Dundas, Chastity Junkin, Gretchen Stockley; Women's Basketball-Leslie Claybrook; Baseball-Jeff Crane, Jeff Laubenthal, Geno Saunders; Men's Golf-Jeff Amershadian, Greg Letson, Dan Mutert, Marten Olander, Fred Skantze, Hank Smith, Jeff Street, Jason Wilhite; Women's Golf-Carrie Allen, Jill Donaldson, Paige Hoefle, Tina Kjellen, Tracy Little; Men's Tennis-Cecil Brandon, Rick Witsken; Women's Tennis-Brenda Coffin, Amy Mascotti, Jenny Whalen, Titia Wilmlink; Men's Swimming-Darren Brudos, Peter Doig, Juan Lopez, Jamey Myers, David Strassburg; Women's Swimming-Nathalie Dietiker, Rita Garay, Stacy Gillies, Joe Dee Lake, Jill Tappen,



Titia Wilmlink

Teri Williams; Men's Track and Field-Chip Johnson, Joakim Nilsson, Eddie Terrell, Everett Whiteside; Women's Track and Field-Vicky Lynch, Malin Ohlund, Marie Ohlund, Heather Shutt-Warner; and Volleyball-Marta Bickert, Kristye Hall, Stephanie Hall, Melanie Ryer and Jennifer Vieth.

Woodrow Alvin Davis Family Student-Athlete Award: Jeff Laubenthal.

New College Award of Excellence in Athletics: Dee Foster, gymnastics.

Each spring The University has Honors Day for all students. Athletes honored this past spring include:

Phi Beta Kappa, Jeff Laubenthal. Mortar Board, Dana Dobransky, Marten Olander, Titia Wilmlink. Sigma Tau Delta, Heather Shutt-Warner; Black Scholar Award, Tracy High, football; Cecil Brandon, men's tennis. Beta Gamma



Marten Olander

Sigma, Fred Skantze. Omicron Delta Kappa, Cecil Brandon, Dee Foster, Jason Jack (football), David Kirkpatrick (men's golf), Tina Kjellen, Marten Olander. Phi Eta Sigma, Chastity Junkin.

Outstanding Undergraduate Finance Students, Marten Olander and Fred Skantze; Recognition of Excellence in Scholarship, Department of Management and Marketing, Brett Anderson (baseball), Lance McAlindon (baseball) and Hank Smith; Honors Graduates, College of Education Tracy Bowden (women's basketball) and College of Engineering Susan Bartholomew (women's swimming).

Outstanding Performance in New College Seminars, Titia Wilmlink; Outstanding Independent Studies, Dee Foster and Titia Wilmlink; and New College Junior with Highest Scholastic Average, Titia Wilmlink.

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BAMA SCORECARD

The Presidents Commission

About the only people who think the NCAA Presidents Commission does anything good for college athletics are the presidents on the commission.

This summer the Presidents Commission had an opportunity to put a proposal on the NCAA convention agenda that could have meant an additional \$1 million per NCAA Division I football program. The proposal was an eight-team playoff-without affecting the bowl structure.

In recent years the NCAA (which is all of the members of the NCAA, not the executives who sit in Kansas City) has voted to impose a number of cost-cutting measures on themselves. (Schools such as Alabama generally oppose these cuts, which have the effect of making college football less attractive.) Over the past few years legislation has limited the number of young men who can receive scholarships and the number of men who can earn a living coaching them. In the future the NCAA wants to do away with the position of recruiting coordinator, adding those duties to those of the head coach.

The Presidents Commission now wants to limit the total number of those who can play on a college football team to 105 (that includes the young man who would like to walk on with his college team), do away with teams staying in a hotel the night before a home game, eliminate the off season training table, reduce even further the number of visits by prospective recruits and the number of coaches who can leave campus to evaluate and recruit, and end in-person scouting of football and basketball opponents.

The Presidents Commission has come up with one good proposal: holding the NCAA convention every other year rather than annually. That could reduce the amount of damage done to college athletics.

Meanwhile the college football coaches who are members of the College Football Association (the major schools with the exceptions of the Big Ten and Pac-10) have recommended that players be given five years of playing eligibility (it is currently four years of eligibility in a five-year frame). The coaches' proposal doesn't have a prayer.

James Robinson

James Robinson is definitely gone. The All-Southeastern Conference guard for Coach David Hobbs Alabama basketball team decided to take the money and run, and no one can blame him. The money is big for those who make it, but the professional sports career lasts only

as long as the legs last. Robinson, 22, decided he'd better get all the years those legs have in them. Any player who leaves school early for a professional career and is a first round draft choice has made the right decision. Robinson was a first round pick, the 21st player chosen, by Portland. Those who follow professional basketball (beyond the championship series) believe that Robinson and Portland are a good match.

And Cedric Moore

When Alabama added five new players to its basketball roster this year (see Page 27), the Crimson Tide was over the 1993-94 scholarship limit of 13. Even with Andre Perry completing his eligibility and James Robinson turning professional, Bama was at 14 with nine returning players. Alabama Head Coach David Hobbs thought the situation would resolve itself without him having the onerous task of "cutting" a player. And it did. Cedric Moore, Bama's starting center most of last season, would be the first to say he prefers basketball to school, and when Cedric got an opportunity to sign a contract with a European team, he took it. Moore, who had two years of eligibility remaining, will be playing for Larnac, a team in Cyprus that plays in the Greek league. Larnac is coached by former Ole Miss star Johnny Newmann.

Lost Points

The losses from last year's basketball team—notably James Robinson, Andre Perry, Cedric Moore and Elliot Washington—represent 48 per cent of Alabama's scoring in 1992-93. Those not returning this season scored 1,059 of Alabama's 2,192 points last year. Robinson was Bama's leading scorer with 598 points, Moore was third with 191, Perry fifth with 178 and Washington had 89 in an abbreviated season after he quit midway through the year.

Bama's leading returning scorer is upcoming junior Jason Caffey, who had 421 points (an average of 14.5 per game).

Stadium Update

Fans arriving at Bryant-Denny Stadium for the Tide's September 18 matchup with Arkansas will notice some changes. All the old fiberglass bench seats are being replaced with new, foam-filled aluminum benches (no more paint on the seat of your pants). In addition, considerable work is being done to repair damaged concrete in and underneath the seating area. A light gray protective coating will then be applied to the concrete, providing for a more uniform look. Also,

slight drainage problems on the field in both end zones and at the north goal line have been corrected.

As for the old seats, former Alabama quarterbacks Gary and Jeff Rutledge are part of a company, Alabama Seats of Champions, that has bought the old benches and will soon be marketing both single seats and benches with commemorative plaques.

More And More Ado

The Gene Jelks affair continues to appear to be much ado about nothing. But there's a lot of ado. A Mobile sports writer reported last spring that Alabama was about to receive an official letter of inquiry. That obviously was false. The reporter, who has hinted at a variety of confidential sources for his "scoop," has reportedly said his story was correct, but that the NCAA expanded his investigation into Bama football, thus accounting for the delay.

An NCAA investigator did meet with Alabama Athletics Director Hootie Ingram, a meeting that apparently was as much a social visit as a working visit. It was learned the investigator was in the area on another matter and just dropped by to speak to Ingram, who said later that he had assured the investigator Alabama had turned over all material on the matter. And, said Ingram, the two chatted about incidents not related to Alabama.

Jelks later said he, too, had met with the investigator. Jelks also said there is a possibility there has been an Auburn influence behind him, but later recanted that possibility. His attorney has suggested the probe will be expanded to other former Alabama athletes in the area of academics.

And Jerry Pullen, the former Alabama assistant coach who Jelks said paid him, has filed suit against Jelks for slander, with former Tide player Randy Edwards serving as Pullen's attorney. The suit sought a great deal of information about Jelks' motivation, possible support, and financial records. Jelks did not respond to much of that suit, but did say he couldn't remember whose telephone he had used or from where he had called Pullen to make an audio tape recording.

New reports have said Jelks is \$35,000 in debt. Since he made the charges last fall he has been living in an Atlanta apartment building where rent ranges from \$550 to \$800 per month. He has said he works part time.

One of the so-called boosters who reportedly paid Jelks for work he didn't do has said that he has documentation of Jelks' employment. Harold Simmons, a Gadsden-area businessman who has no

ties to The University, reportedly said the charges have filled him with anxiety, which sounds like another lawsuit against Jelks could be forthcoming.

Jelks did get some support from a family member, who previously had said she thought Jelks was not telling the truth. Now a sister says she was misquoted then and she does believe his charges.

Former Alabama Head Coach Bill Curry, now at Kentucky, and the athletics director at that time, Steve Sloan, both said they had been contacted by the NCAA. But former Alabama Head Coach and Athletics Director Ray Perkins, who signed Jelks, said he has not heard from the NCAA, but if he does (and he does not expect to), he will tell them the story is ludicrous. Those in the athletics department are absolutely sure there is nothing to Jelks' charges. Ingram said in mid-July he had not heard a word from the NCAA.

Sloan Moves

If the NCAA wants to talk to Steve Sloan again, they'll probably do it in Orlando, Florida. Sloan, who was a football star at Bama in the 1960s, resigned his position as director of athletics at North Texas to accept the same job at Central Florida.

Clemens Dies

Al Clemens, the oldest known Alabama football letterman, died May 19 at his home in Hollywood, Florida. He was 94. Clemens came to Alabama from Scottsboro. He was a captain under Coach Xen C. Scott in 1921 and Coach Wallace Wade's first captain in 1923.

Women's Soccer Returning

Athletics departments across the nation are going to have to deal with the so-called "Gender Equity" question. Alabama has made plans "to get a head start" in meeting those standards by adding women's soccer as a varsity sport in 1994, Bama Athletics Director Hootie Ingram announced. That addition will give Alabama 10 women's sports and nine men's sports. Full planning for the return of women's soccer (Bama had a team for a few years in the 1980s) will begin this fall.

Kendrick Returns

Kermit Kendrick, an outstanding defensive back for Alabama (1985-88), has joined the Alabama athletics department as an assistant to the athletics director. Kendrick, an Academic All-SEC selection, as well as an All-SEC and All-America honoree, earned his degree in accounting from Alabama and was a financial consultant with a Birmingham stock brokerage firm prior to returning to Alabama.

Basketball All-Stars

Niesha Johnson, a junior on the AUGUST '93/BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide

Alabama women's basketball team, was named to the USA Basketball Women's Junior National Team for the second consecutive year this summer. The USA team will compete for the Junior World Championship August 1-8 in Seoul, South Korea.

Yolanda Watkins, an upcoming sophomore for the Tide women's basketball team, was selected for the 1993 Olympic Festival South Team. Some 750 hopefuls tried out for 18 spots on each of the four teams, which were scheduled to play in San Antonio, Texas, July 24-28.

SEC All-Sports

It wasn't a particularly good year for Alabama in SEC All-Sports competition. Although the Alabama men took one championship (football), the overall performance of the Alabama men was only sixth best in the 12-team league. Bama tied for third in tennis, was fifth in swimming and diving, tied for sixth in golf and track and field (a combination of indoor and outdoor track and cross country), eighth in basketball and 10th in baseball.

The Alabama women didn't win a team championship, but finished third overall with best finishes of second in gymnastics and track and field. Swimming and tennis had fourth place finishes and basketball a tie for fourth, volleyball seventh and golf ninth.

Florida was first in both men's and women's all-sports competition.

National Finishes

Alabama's spring sports teams had mixed results in end-of-season competition.

The Alabama men's tennis team reached the quarterfinals of the NCAA Championships as Coach John Kreis' team had the highest final national ranking in Crimson Tide history, ninth. Rick Witsken and Juan Carlos Bianchi earned All-America in doubles. The women's team of Coach Karin Gaiser did not receive an initial NCAA Tournament bid, despite a year-long ranking in the nation's top 20. But on the eve of the tournament

it was learned Miami was not able to field a full team for the tournament, and Bama players scrambled to get to Gainesville, Florida, traveling throughout the night to play. Unfortunately, the extraordinary effort was not rewarded as Alabama was ousted in the first round. However, the doubles team of Titia Wilmink and Marouschka Van Dijk earned All-America, a first in Bama history.

The Alabama men's golf team of Coach Dick Spybey earned an NCAA bid, but missed the cut for the championship. The women of Coach Betty Palmer had horrible luck in NCAA qualifying as top player Jill Donaldson was stricken with food poisoning and had to withdraw. Bama did not make the NCAA field.

Coach Doug Williamson's track and field teams were representative in the NCAA Championships, the men finishing 31st, the women ninth.

Coaches Of The Year

Two of Alabama's head women's team coaches, Betty Palmer in golf and Karin Gaiser in tennis, were honored this year. Palmer was named SEC Coach of the Year by her peers, while Gaiser earned the same honor in the NCAA Southeast Region.

Press Guides

Alabama's 1993 Football Media Guide may be ordered for \$15 (checks payable to University of Alabama) by writing Football Media Guide, Post Office Box 870391, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487. It is also available on selected newsstands for \$12.

Press Guide Awards

The College Sports Information Directors of America honors those whose press guides are exceptional. This year the Alabama gymnastics press guide, edited by Assistant Sports Information Director Barbara Butler, was judged second in the nation, while Assistant Sports Information Director Becky Hopf won awards for her men's tennis (second) and men's golf (sixth) media guides.

1993 Alabama Football Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	*TIME
Sept. 4	Tulane	Birmingham	4:00 p.m.
Sept. 11	Vanderbilt	Nashville	11:40 a.m.
Sept. 18	Arkansas	Tuscaloosa	11:40 a.m.
Sept. 25	Louisiana Tech	Birmingham	1:30 p.m.
Oct. 2	South Carolina	Columbia	6:00 p.m.
Oct. 16	Tennessee	Birmingham	TBA
Oct. 23	Mississippi	Oxford	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 30	Southern Miss (HC)	Tuscaloosa	2:30 p.m.
Nov. 6	LSU	Tuscaloosa	1:30 p.m.
Nov. 13	Mississippi State	Tuscaloosa	1:30 p.m.
Nov. 20	Auburn	Auburn	TBA

Dec. 4 SEC Championship Birmingham 2:30 p.m.

*Times are central. Times are subject to change.

Schedules Of Alabama's 1993 Football Opponents

Team	Sept. 4	Sept. 11	Sept. 18	Sept. 25	Oct. 2	Oct. 9	Oct. 16	Oct. 23	Oct. 30	Nov. 6	Nov. 13	Nov. 20	Nov. 27
TULANE Green Wave New Orleans, La.	@ ALABAMA (Birmingham)	@ Rice	William & Mary	Mississippi State	Navy	Southwest Louisiana	@ TCU		@ Boston College	@ Southern Miss	North Carolina	@ LSU	Dec. 4 @ Hawaii
VANDERBILT Commodores Nashville, Tenn.	@ Wake Forest	ALABAMA	@ Ole Miss		Auburn	Cincinnati	Georgia	@ South Carolina		Kentucky	Navy	@ Florida	@ Tennessee
ARKANSAS Razorbacks Fayetteville, Ark.	@ SMU	South Carolina	@ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa)	Memphis St. @ Little Rock	@ Georgia	Tennessee @ Little Rock	@ Ole Miss (Jackson)		Auburn	Mississippi State @ Little Rock	Tulsa		@ LSU
LOUISIANA TECH Bulldogs Ruston, La.	@ Tennessee	Arkansas State	@ South Carolina	@ ALABAMA (Birmingham)		@ San Jose State	@ East Carolina		Northern Illinois	Nevada-Las Vegas	@ Utah State	Central Florida	@ Southwest Louisiana
SOUTH CAROLINA Gamecocks Columbia, S.C.	@ Georgia	@ Arkansas	Louisiana Tech	Sept. 23 Kentucky (ESPN)	ALABAMA	East Carolina	@ Mississippi State	Vanderbilt	@ Tennessee		Florida	Clemson	
TENNESSEE Volunteers Knoxville, Tenn.	Louisiana Tech	Georgia	@ Florida	LSU	Duke	Arkansas @ Little Rock	@ ALABAMA (Birmingham)		South Carolina	Louisville		@ Kentucky	Vanderbilt
OLE MISS Rebels Oxford, Miss.	Sept. 2 @ Auburn (ESPN-TV)	Chattanooga	Vanderbilt	Georgia	@ Kentucky	Arkansas @ Jackson	ALABAMA	ALABAMA	@ LSU	@ Memphis State	Northern Illinois		@ Mississippi State
SOUTHERN MISS Golden Eagles Hattiesburg, Miss.	Pittsburgh		Northeast Louisiana	@ Auburn	Southwestern Louisiana	@ Georgia	@ Louisville	East Carolina	@ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa)	Tulane	@ Memphis State	@ Tulsa	
LSU Fighting Tigers Baton Rouge, La.	@ Texas A&M	@ Mississippi State	Auburn	@ Tennessee	Utah State	Florida	@ Kentucky		Ole Miss	@ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa)		Tulane	Arkansas
MISSISSIPPI STATE Bulldogs Stateville, Miss.	Memphis State	LSU		@ Tulane	@ Florida	@ Auburn	South Carolina	Arkansas State	Kentucky	Arkansas @ Little Rock	@ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa)		Ole Miss
AUBURN Tigers Auburn, Ala.	Sept. 2 Ole Miss (ESPN-TV)	Sanford	@ LSU	Southern Miss	@ Vanderbilt	Mississippi State	Florida		@ Arkansas	New Mexico St.	@ Georgia	ALABAMA	

READER SURVEY

College Sports Affiliates Network

The following reader survey will help us accurately determine your particular lifestyle and sporting interests. Your participation in this survey will help us to continue to bring you a targeted and informative sports publication. Please take a moment to fill out the questionnaire below and mail it to: The College Sports Affiliates Network, 4099 McEwen Road, Suite 350, Dallas, TX 75244. Thank you for your help!

Sex: ☐ M ☐ F Age _____

☐ Single ☐ Married

No. of children _____

Household income per year:

- ☐ Under \$10,000 ☐ \$50,000 - \$75,000
☐ \$10,000 - \$25,000 ☐ \$75,000 - \$100,000
☐ \$25,000 - \$50,000 ☐ Over \$100,000

Education:

- ☐ High School Graduate ☐ College Graduate
☐ Attended College ☐ Graduate School

Job Description:

- ☐ Executive ☐ Officer ☐ Sales
☐ President ☐ Manager ☐ Other
☐ Vice President

Which of the following credit cards do you use:

- ☐ American Express ☐ Green ☐ Gold ☐ Platinum
☐ Mastercard ☐ Mastercard Gold ☐ Visa ☐ Visa Gold
☐ Diner's Club ☐ Discover ☐ Carte Blanc

Are you an alumnus of the university represented in this publication: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you own or rent your residence: ☐ Own ☐ Rent

What is the value of your residence: \$ _____

Do you own a second home: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you plan to purchase any of the following within the next 12 months:

(check all that apply)

- ☐ Car ☐ Boat ☐ Sporting Equipment
☐ Camper/RV ☐ New Home ☐ Vacation/Resort Home
☐ Video Camera ☐ Appliances ☐ Stocks/CD's
☐ Exercise Equipment ☐ Life Insurance

Do you have a passport: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you travel for business purposes: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Number of trips per year: _____

How many vehicles do you own:

- ☐ Cars ☐ Vans ☐ Trucks ☐ RV's

Would you like subscription information on other college sports publications: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Name of school _____ BAMA

Which sports do you actively participate in:

- ☐ Golf ☐ Snow Skiing ☐ Bicycling
☐ Boating ☐ Tennis ☐ Weights
☐ Water Skiing ☐ Fishing ☐ Bowling
☐ Running ☐ Softball ☐ Hiking
☐ Scuba Diving ☐ Aerobics ☐ Swimming
☐ Camping ☐ Basketball ☐ Soccer Racquetball

Which of these publications do you read:

- ☐ Time ☐ People ☐ Inside Sport ☐ Golf Digest
☐ GQ ☐ Tennis ☐ Newsweek ☐ Sporting News
☐ Life ☐ Golf ☐ Esquire ☐ Playboy
☐ Sports Illustrated ☐ Other _____

Which of the following TV sports do you watch most often: (Check only the top three)

- ☐ College Basketball ☐ College Football
☐ NFL Pro Football ☐ Major League Baseball
☐ Pro Tennis ☐ Bowling ☐ Car Racing
☐ Pro Basketball ☐ Pro Golf ☐ Hockey

Where are you planning your next vacation:

- ☐ Northeast ☐ Midwest ☐ Europe
☐ Southwest ☐ Southeast ☐ Caribbean
☐ California ☐ Mexico ☐ Canada
 Other _____

How long do you read each issue? _____ HRs

Other than yourself, how many people read this publication? # of people _____

Would you be interested in joining a COLLEGE SPORTS CLUB if the membership was \$19.95 and you received the following benefits:

- * Drawings for free trips to major college sporting events - (Yes, that includes Bowl Games and the Final Four!)
- * Quarterly newsletter covering the national college sports scene: coaches opinions, insider news, and investigative reports on issues confronting college sports -- overtime in college football, paying players, limiting the number of coaches, playoff system, gender equity, etc.
- * College Sports Fan Polls - You pick the top twenty.
- * Information on tickets and travel packages to major college sporting events -- Bowl games, Final Four, etc.

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, where should we send membership information

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ St. _____ Zip _____

A Limited Edition Art Print by Ron Atwood



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This fine art print by Nationally Known Wildlife Artist Ron Atwood was inspired by the 1993 Sugar Bowl between Alabama and Miami.

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It has been called The Play of the Game, The Play of the Year, and even The Play of the Century; however, we call it simply, "The Play"!

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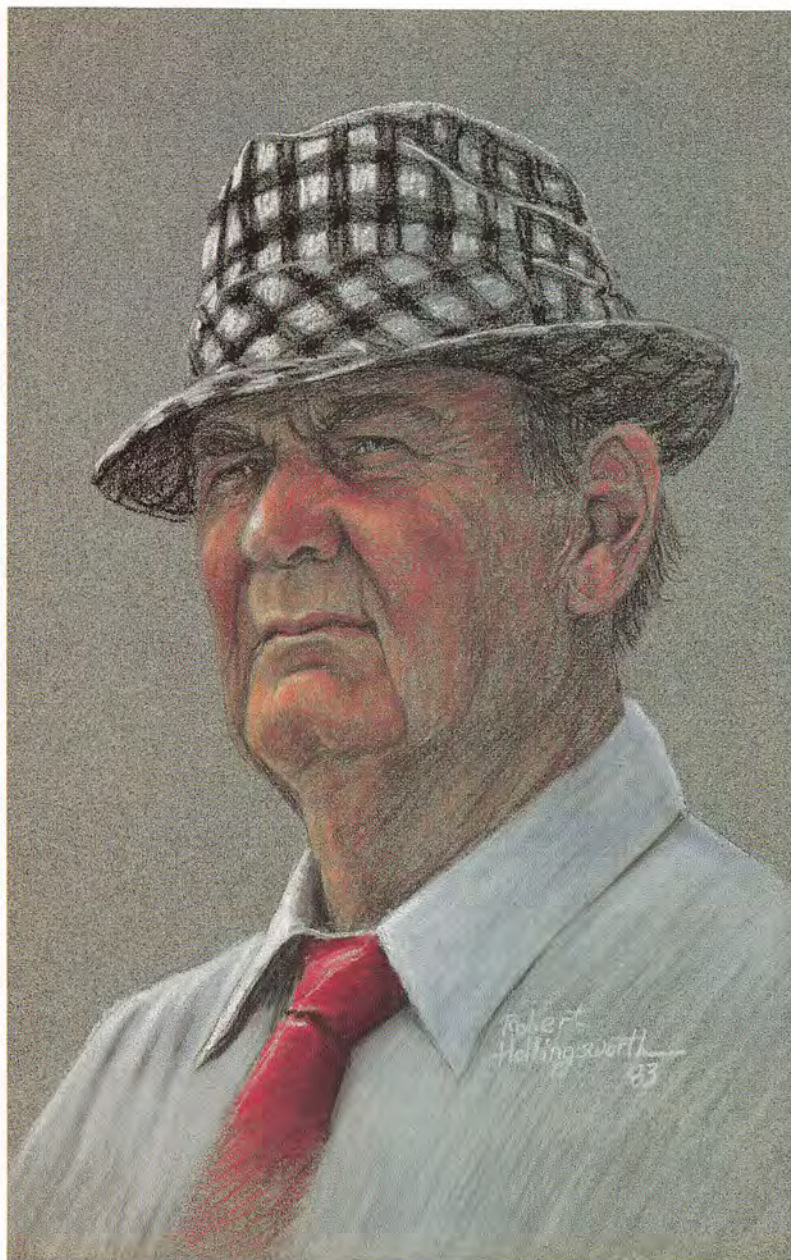
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This is to certify that the limited edition offset lithograph is produced on 100% acid free paper using fade resistant inks. This edition is authenticated by the lithographer and the artist, who has personally inspected, signed and numbered each lithograph. The printing of this lithograph was January 26, 1993, the tenth anniversary of Coach Bryant's death.
 All plates have been destroyed.



!! See the original on display in the Paul W. Bryant Museum !!

These signed and numbered prints are also available framed and double matted with acid-free mats in a cherry colored wood frame.

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